



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

ANNUAL REPORT 2003



FREEDOM

EQUALITY



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

A message from
CHIEF JUSTICE MAURA D. CORRIGAN

In 2003, the hard work of our judicial branch resulted in some important efforts coming to fruition. Following many years of debate over trial court reform, legislation became effective that permits trial courts to consolidate on a “local option” basis. After 19 years of effort, all 83 Michigan counties converted to a federally-mandated statewide child enforcement computer system, averting \$147 million in federal penalties and entitling Michigan to a \$35 million refund of previously paid penalties. Michigan’s long-established system for distributing court-imposed fines was streamlined and simplified.

Also in 2003, our courts looked to the future on many different fronts. Family courts started a new tradition with the first annual “Michigan Adoption Day,” to bring attention to the plight of foster children needing permanent homes. Courts continued to focus on issues affecting children and families, including a special docket aimed at locating children missing from court-ordered placements. Michigan moved closer to completing a statewide judicial computer network and other technological enhancements, particularly to assist law enforcement. From the expansion of state drug courts to on-line publication of the complete Michigan Court Rules, the same goal applies: to serve the ends of justice and the needs of the public.

I invite you to read this report, which also includes statistics about our courts’ activities and caseloads. Detailed information is available at www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/caseload.htm.

Maura D. Corrigan
Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court
March 31, 2004



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
2003 ANNUAL REPORT
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HIGHLIGHTS

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

On any given day, there are thousands of children in foster care in Michigan and over 500,000 children in foster care nationally. Many children are languishing in the legal system, instead of being moved toward permanent homes.

In 2003, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), under the direction of the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, created a Child Welfare Services Division (CWS) within SCAO. A specialist in child welfare, with years of experience as an attorney specializing in child welfare cases, was appointed to oversee the division.

Child Welfare Services' goal is to help courts expedite permanent placement for children through programs such as the Court Improvement Program and the Foster Care Review Board Program. CWS is also responsible for providing technical assistance to the Judiciary on child welfare matters that affect day-to-day court operations. For example, CWS helps courts implement the recommendations from the Child and Family Services Review which include safety and permanency goals. CWS also helps courts prepare for the pending federal Title IV-E audit. In addition, CWS monitors the special dockets that track children who are missing from their foster care placements. CWS also encourages family courts to participate in Michigan Adoption Day, a joint effort of the Michigan Supreme Court and Family Independence Agency.

Michigan Adoption Day

In Michigan, thousands of children lack permanent homes. It was to draw attention to their plight, and to educate the public about the adoption process, that the Michigan Supreme Court co-sponsored the first Michigan Adoption Day with the Family Independence Agency (FIA).

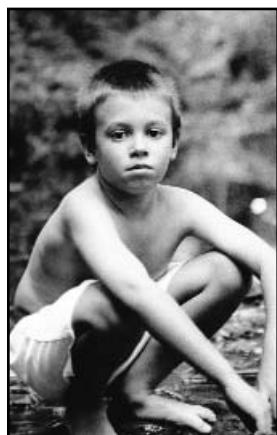


On November 25, 2003, 34 courts serving 35 counties performed adoptions for more than 250 children. The adoption ceremonies included parties for the adopted children and their families, gifts for the children, and informational sessions for the public. According to National Adoption Day organizers, Michigan's was the largest Adoption Day event in the nation.

As of September 30, 2003, there were 12,701 children who were temporary court wards in Michigan—children who were made wards of the court as a result of child protective proceedings. As of the same date, there were 19,490 children in foster care in Michigan. For most children in foster care, the goal is returning to an abuse-free home. But a significant number of children—4,584 as of September 30—are permanent court wards with a goal of adoption.

Court Improvement Program

In child protective cases, the goal is to either reunite the child with the family or find the child another permanent home. If courts are not functioning properly, children simply languish in the system. To be effective, courts must review cases in a timely and comprehensive manner and must appoint skilled attorneys to represent all parties.



In accordance with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the United States Congress appropriated funds to 48 state judicial systems to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Under this grant, Michigan is required to assess its child protection process, identify obstacles to timely permanent placements, and develop and implement court improvement plans. Accordingly, in 1995, SCAO began operating the Court Improvement Program (CIP).

The Court Improvement Program's initial assessment of the courts was completed in 1997. A reassessment, which includes review of court files and interviews with stakeholders, began in 2003 and will be completed in 2005.

Through CIP, SCAO has implemented a number of projects to improve the courts' handling of child welfare cases, including the Permanency Planning Mediation Project, the Absent Parent Protocol, and the *Child Protective Proceedings Benchbook*. In addition, the Michigan Supreme Court and SCAO have formed work groups to address key issues such as barriers to adoption and duties of the lawyer-guardian ad litem.

Absent Parent Protocol

Too often, biological parents (particularly fathers) are not sufficiently involved in child protective cases. The Absent Parent Protocol was developed in 2003 to help ensure that absent parents receive due process in child protective proceedings beginning with the preliminary hearing. Through a competitive bidding process, SCAO selected the Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan to develop this protocol for courts and child welfare agencies. In 2003, Children's Charter and SCAO developed training for courts and child welfare staff on the Absent Parent Protocol. Training formats include webcasting, which will be available through the Michigan Judicial Institute in 2004.

Court-Appointed Counsel

Courts appoint lawyer-guardians ad litem, known as L-GALs, to represent children in child protective cases. In 2003, a Michigan Supreme Court-Family Independence Agency work group found that L-GALs often failed to visit their child clients. In addition, the workgroup concluded L-GALs frequently substituted for one another at hearings, so that the attorney who appeared at the hearing was not always familiar with the child's case.

As a result of these findings, SCAO issued a directive on September 26, 2003, amending the SCAO form (Order Appointing Attorney/Guardian ad Litem/Lawyer Guardian ad Litem). SCAO also created an Affidavit of Service Performed by Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem. The new forms specifically direct the L-GAL to meet with the child. To be compensated for a hearing, a L-GAL must complete an affidavit stating that he or she has met with the child before the hearing as required by child welfare legislation enacted in 1998. *continued on next page*

On October 29, 2003, SCAO also promulgated a policy encouraging local panels of the Foster Care Review Board to report attorney misconduct to SCAO for possible referral to the Attorney Grievance Commission. Grounds for referring an attorney may include the lawyer's "failure to conduct an independent investigation into the facts of a particular case resulting in prejudice to the child's legal interest," as well as the L-GAL's failure to meet with the child.

Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem Training

An independent study by the American Bar Association (ABA) in November 2002 found that Michigan L-GALs lacked proper training and were not carrying out their duties as prescribed by state law. Accordingly, in 2003, SCAO, the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJJI), and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice created a protocol detailing L-GALs' powers and duties, including minimum standards for L-GAL training. The protocol was distributed to all family divisions of circuit court and is available on the MJJI portion of the Michigan Supreme Court's website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/lgal/LGALprotocol.htm>. Statewide training for L-GALs will be available in March 2004.

“To be compensated for a hearing, a L-GAL must complete an affidavit stating that he or she has met with the child before the hearing.”

Foster Care Review Board

In 1984, the Legislature created the Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB) to review cases of abused or neglected children in foster care. FCRB volunteers provide an objective look at the roles that the courts, FIA, and private agencies play in the system. FCRB also makes findings and recommendations about permanency planning and presents these recommendations to the Judiciary, the Executive Branch, and the Legislature. In addition, local boards also hold appeal hearings when foster parents object to removal of children from the foster home.

In 2003, the FCRB conducted approximately 2,989 reviews. In 2003, 163 requests for appeals were filed and 35 hearings were conducted. Program representatives reconciled the remainder of the appeals without hearings.

Title IV-E Audit

In March 2004, Michigan will undergo a federal audit regarding administration of the Title IV-E Program. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides states with federal funding to pay for foster care programs for abused or neglected children. In 2003, Michigan received approximately \$248 million dollars in Title IV-E funds. Failure to pass the audit could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal aid.

In 2003, SCAO, FIA, and judges formed a workgroup to focus on Michigan's compliance with Title IV-E. SCAO maintained regular contact with the Judiciary and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Administration of Children and Families. SCAO and FIA also worked on streamlining the appeal process for cases that are determined ineligible for Title IV-E funding.

Children Absent Without Legal Permission

In 2002, the Supreme Court directed all Michigan circuit courts to develop special dockets to review cases in which foster children are missing from their court-ordered placements or are absent without legal permission (AWOLP). The courts submitted their plans to SCAO by February 1, 2003. SCAO assisted the courts with their plans and monitored the courts' progress in locating AWOLP children. In 2003, 764 children were reported missing, including 96 who were missing twice and eight who were missing three times. In 73% of the cases, the child was located. Regular meetings including the Chief Justice, chief judges of circuit courts, and the Director of Child Welfare Services have monitored progress in finding AWOLP children.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Child Support Collections

Michigan's Friend of the Court (FOC) offices are responsible for enforcing child custody, parenting time, and child support. The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, which reviewed all states' child support collections for the year 2002, reported in 2003 that Michigan's child support collections totaled \$1,443,730,382. Michigan ranks third in the United States in collections, behind California and Ohio. Michigan's collections per full-time equivalent staff (FTE) in 2002 were \$551,042—\$225,187 higher than the 2002 national average of \$325,855 per FTE.

In 2002, the Michigan Family Independence Agency, the Michigan Office of Child Support, and the Friends of the Court implemented a new program, the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM), for matching the bank accounts of parents who failed to pay support. In 2003, \$16,682,840.55 was collected from child support payers through FIDM. As a result, Michigan's child support arrearage was reduced by an additional \$10,716,142.16 in 2003.

Michigan Child Support Enforcement System

In 2003, the state of Michigan succeeded after 19 years in completing the statewide transition to the federally-mandated Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES). Federal authorities certified MiCSES after the conversion was completed by the federally imposed October 1, 2003 deadline. The transition averted \$147 million in federal penalties. The penalties would have had a devastating effect on the state's ability to enforce child support and a negative impact on the budget.

In addition, the state recouped \$35 million in federal penalties Michigan had already suffered. Of that amount, \$6 million was set aside for judicial branch technology improvements, in recognition of the judicial branch's leadership in the conversion.

The MiCSES conversion resulted from an enormous collaborative effort by the Department of Information Technology, the Family Independence Agency, Friends of the Court, county prosecutors, trial courts, and the Supreme Court. With conversion complete, the state's focus will be on making MiCSES responsive to the needs of families and those who serve them.

“The state
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Other Activities

In 2003, SCAO's Friend of the Court Bureau committed to a partnership with the state Office of Child Support, Friend of the Court offices, and prosecuting attorneys to improve the child support program. The partnership will use a decision-making process, referred to as Work Improvement Teams (WIT), to include perspectives from all areas of the child support program.

In 2003, as part of the federally mandated review, SCAO recommended several changes to the Michigan Child Support Formula Manual. The Supreme Court instructed SCAO to publish those recommendations and invite comments from the public. At a June 19, 2003 public hearing, the Court heard testimony about the formula. On December 24, 2003, the Supreme Court adopted three substantive changes to the child support formula manual: (1) determining medical support and health care coverage options, (2) setting child support before determining spousal support, and (3) deviating from the formula.

The Supreme Court also requested that the Legislature and Governor relocate child support guidelines oversight, believing that the Legislature, not the Court, is the appropriate body to oversee the child support formula manual.

FEE STRUCTURE REFORM

State governments, including Michigan, are struggling to maintain services in the face of repeated budget cuts. The judicial branch is acutely aware of the state's financial constraints. To that end, the Supreme Court has worked to make the best use of existing resources and to help the state identify revenue sources.

In 2003, as part of the last budget cycle, the judiciary worked with the Legislature and the Executive Branch to revise the system of assessments and costs in criminal cases and to simplify the distribution of civil filing fees. Under the previous system, each local court collected and reported amounts for various funds; those monies were then distributed by the Department of Treasury to each category. Frequent additions and changes to these fees required software and procedural changes and contributed to errors in calculations and transmittals.

Accordingly, the judicial branch's 2003 proposal featured consolidating a variety of different trial court costs and assessments for criminal and traffic matters into a single fee. The Judiciary's 2003 proposal called for:

- simplifying the assessment, collection, and distribution of criminal fines and related court-imposed fees;
- establishing clear and consistent priorities for distributing money collected in criminal cases;
- creating a more centralized system of state fees, fines, and distribution that could be easily adjusted to accommodate legislative revisions.

Amounts remitted from both criminal and civil infraction assessments and civil filing fees are now combined at the state level and then allocated to designated programs in accordance with a statutory formula. In addition to simplifying the process at the trial court level, future changes in distribution will be much easier for the Legislature to adjust as priorities and needs change.

COLLECTIONS

Improving collection of court-ordered financial sanctions is a top priority for the Michigan judiciary.

Steps taken to improve court collections include:

- assessing a statutory 20% late penalty for a person who fails to pay fees or costs within 56 days after that amount is due and using the Department of Treasury to intercept state tax refunds and take other collection action to satisfy outstanding obligations.
- publishing a manual outlining guidelines for trial court collections, including best practice standards, discussion of best practices, guidelines for developing a collection plan, and sample forms and references. This manual can be found on the Supreme Court web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/#collect>.
- adopting Michigan Court Rule 1.110, which requires that fines, costs, and other financial obligations imposed by the court be paid at the time of assessment unless good cause is shown.
- supporting legislation that consolidated certain assessments and costs to simplify the assessment, collection, and distribution of monetary obligations imposed by the courts; increasing selected fees and assessments to provide additional revenue for local and state judicial operations; and providing funding for monitoring collections, distribution of fund receipts, management assistance, and audit of trial court collections.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

On November 1, 2002, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center opened to the public. Since then, the 3,900 square foot gallery, located on the first floor of the Michigan Hall of Justice, has welcomed over 20,000 visitors. Michigan's Learning Center is unique in its wide array of exhibits, including a "Day in Court" computer interactive exhibit that allows participants to play roles in a mock trial. The center focuses on Michigan's court system and judicial branch history but includes general information about constitutional law, the role of a jury, basic principles of law, drug court processes, and court procedures. Hands-on exhibits and computer interactive exhibits bring Michigan law to life, demonstrating its impact on Michigan citizens. Learning Center tour groups are comprised of students from the fourth grade through high school, pre-law and college students, community organizations, and the general public. The Learning Center has also hosted visitors from the Midwest United States, South America, and Europe. Trained volunteer docents facilitate the tour group educational experience.



On January 1, 2003, a "gallery of exhibits" of the Learning Center was added to the Supreme Court website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/lc-gallery/lc-gallery1.htm>. The gallery "walks" visitors into the Hall of Justice and through some of the features of the Learning Center, including the "Day in Court" mock trial. *continued on next page*

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

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In October 2003, the Learning Center received a “Quest for Excellence” award from the Michigan Museums Association. The award is given in recognition of exceptional programs, graphic projects, and exceptional activities of Michigan museums.

2003 WEB PRESENCE

Webcasting

The Supreme Court began webcasting (broadcasting) over the Internet in 2002 and expanded webcasting in 2003. Court staff throughout Michigan can now view educational seminars at the Hall of Justice Conference Center by connecting to courts.mi.gov/mji. Webcast users are able to see and hear the presenter, see the PowerPoint slide show, and “talk” with the presenter through an e-mail “chat” feature. Webcasts can be viewed in real time or later in an archived (recorded) format on the Court’s website. In addition to many on-site programs, the Michigan Judicial Institute holds up to fifteen webcasts throughout the year and maintains most of them as archived programs.

“One Court of Justice” Website

Following the 2002 redesign of the “One Court of Justice” webpage and related websites, the Supreme Court continued to add new features. The webpage links to websites for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan Judicial Institute, trial courts, Michigan court rules, state Board of Law Examiners, various associations, and other sites of interest. Users can access over 650 court forms on the SCAO website, all of which can be completed online and printed.



Features added in 2003 include:

- a complete, free online version of rules affecting Michigan’s courts. The Supreme Court’s website now offers the full text of the Court Rules, Rules of Evidence, local court rules, rules for the Board of Law Examiners, and State Bar rules. Also included are the Code of Judicial Conduct, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Uniform System of Citation. Formerly, only recently adopted court rules and administrative orders, in addition to proposed court rule changes, were available on the Court’s website.
- a free e-mail delivery service for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions. Opinions are available on both courts’ websites on the business day following the opinions’ release; subscribers receive an e-mail with links to the opinions.
- all Supreme Court administrative orders are now available online at no charge. Proposed administrative orders are also available, along with comments submitted by the public. *continued on next page*

"One Court of Justice" Website
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- a free online edition of the Model Civil Jury Instructions, available on the Supreme Court website. Currently, only eleven other states offer their civil jury instructions online.
- an online Sentencing Guidelines Manual. The manual, which is available free on the State Court Administrative Office website, assists those who use the guidelines enacted by the Legislature.
- a search engine for the State Court Administrative Office website.

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) is the educational office of SCAO, dedicated to providing quality, timely education for Michigan judges and judicial branch staff. In 2003, MJI held over 70 seminars for the judicial branch focusing on substantive, procedural, and practical issues. Many of these seminars are also available to courts via webcast. In addition, MJI publication staff produced and updated several benchbooks and monographs, addressing such diverse topics as domestic violence, child protective proceedings, and traffic violations.

MJI webcasts and publications, including monthly publication updates, are available on the website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/mji>.

COURT TECHNOLOGY

Judicial Network Project

A statewide judicial network project, scheduled for completion in 2004, will permit courts to submit information electronically to Michigan State Police, Secretary of State, and other state agencies—a significant advance in law enforcement.

The Judicial Network Project is funded through a combination of Federal Grants and state general funds. Under a sub-grant agreement with the Michigan State Police, the Federal National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) provides hardware for courts to connect to the State's Local Government Network (LGNet). The grant also provides for software development to automate the submission of adult and juvenile felony dispositions electronically. The judiciary anticipates expanding the network to include software development, e-commerce, e-filing and data warehousing.

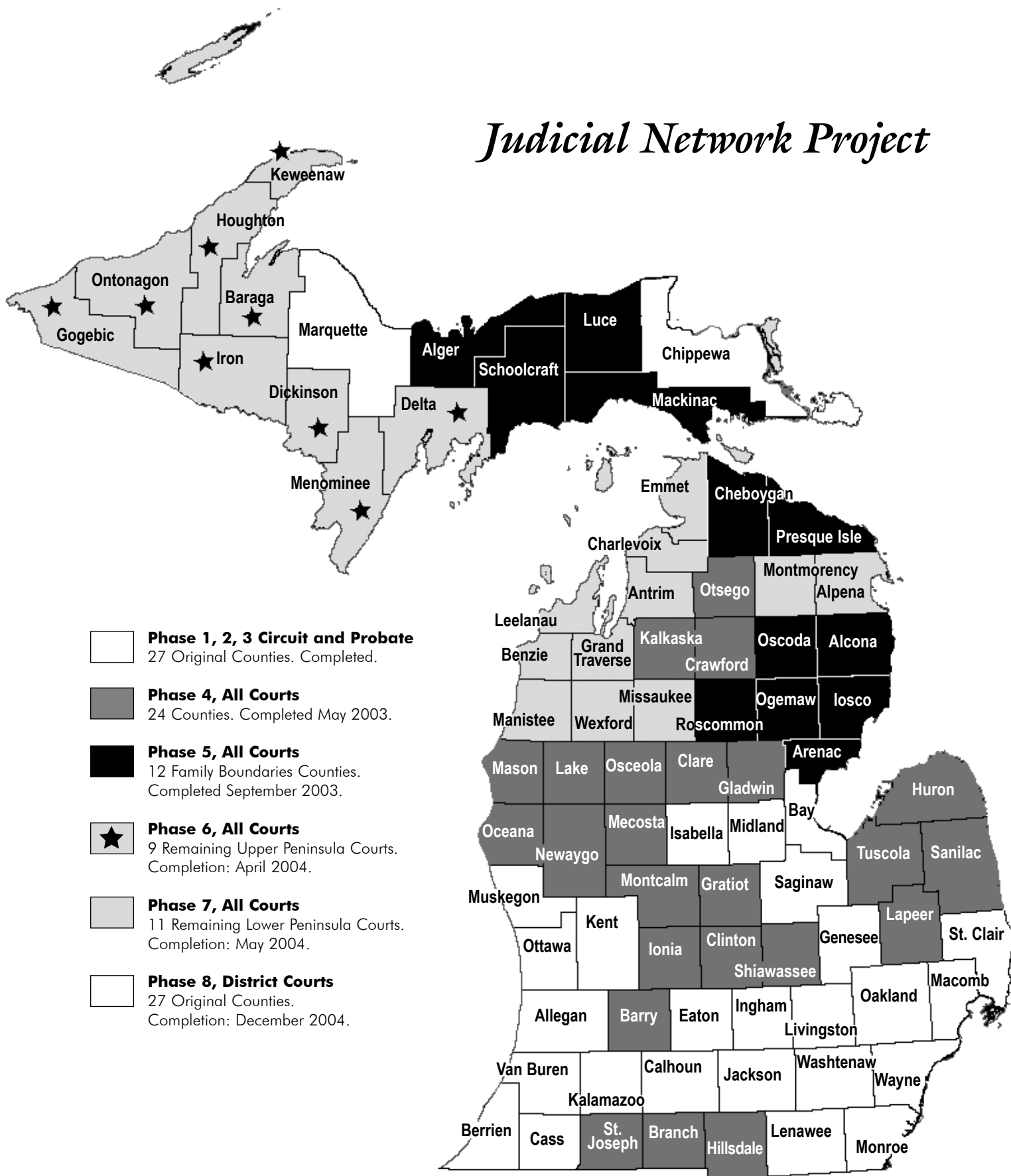
The Judicial Technology Improvement Fund (JTIF) provides funding for hardware in district courts to connect to LGNet. The JTIF fund also covers the monthly line costs for all courts.

For the past three years, the Judicial Network Project has focused on building a communication infrastructure that will link each trial court to the state network. In the past, court conviction data was submitted on paper to state agencies on a weekly basis. The



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Judicial Network Project



Judicial Network Project
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submission method is changing from paper-based to electronic submission which may take place daily, or, in some cases, immediately. The judiciary's goal is to have all Michigan courts networked and submitting data electronically by the end of 2004.

As of December 2003, hardware installation was completed for all courts in 50 counties and in progress in additional counties. (For a complete timetable of the project, see page 9.)

In addition, 60 circuit courts, representing 92 percent of the adult felony caseload, and 15 circuit courts, representing 45 percent of the juvenile felony caseload, were submitting dispositions electronically to the State Police.

SCAO is working with state and local entities to complete the network project. The judicial branch is coordinating this project with other statewide efforts, including the Child Support Enforcement System, the Michigan State Police conversion of LEIN to LGNet, and the Department of Information Technology's consolidation of existing state lines to county offices.

Data Warehouse

A data warehouse will allow the judicial branch to collect information about pending and disposed cases throughout Michigan. Currently, the state's 251 trial court locations use 41 different case management systems; as a result, courts have difficulty sharing case information with each other and with other branches of government. This inability to communicate creates an information void about defendants in criminal cases and others involved in the Michigan justice system.

Starting in 2002, SCAO began using Judicial Technology Improvement Fund (JTIF) funds to add a judicial data warehouse to the existing state data warehouse. The data warehouse will give state trial judges access to a statewide name index with associated detail data to identify pending and closed cases in other courts. SCAO will be able to generate statistical and trend information from the data warehouse.

In 2003, a prototype design was tested and accepted using data from Isabella and Saginaw counties. The project will expand to an additional six mid-Michigan counties in 2004.

E-Ticket Payment

Traffic tickets can be paid online under another project of the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund. By going to the Michigan.gov website users will be able to:

- post payments to a court's case management system;
- use the State's secure credit card processing application; and
- pay multiple tickets to different courts with one credit card transaction.

The e-ticket program started in 2003 at the 62A District Court in Kentwood. The Michigan Supreme Court plans to expand the project to seven Wayne County courts in 2004.

E-Filing

Litigants and others will be able to file court documents from their own homes and offices under another technology project of the Michigan Supreme Court. In Administrative Order (AO) 2002-37, the Michigan Supreme Court adopted national standards developed by the National Consortium for State Court Automation Standards for electronic filing of court documents. The Court also invited trial courts to apply as e-filing pilot projects. A kickoff meeting was held in June 2003 for courts interested in e-filing. The State Court Administrative Office is reviewing the courts' applications. Pilot projects are expected to begin in 2004.

“Litigants and others will be able to file court documents from their own homes and offices.”

In addition, the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals have been working with IBM to design an enterprise-wide e-filing application. This application is scheduled to be tested in a trial court and the Court of Appeals in 2004.

TRIAL COURT REFORM

In 2003, the judicial branch saw some long-awaited legislation go into effect: Public Act (PA) 682, which concerns family courts; and PA 678 of 2002, which addresses trial court consolidation. Another bill, PA 92 of 2003, significantly affected some state trial courts by realigning their borders.



Family Division

In 1996, the Legislature passed PA 388 which created the family division of circuit court by transferring juvenile delinquency and neglect matters from the probate court. The creation of a separate family division in circuit court helped ensure that matters involving the same family could be resolved in one court. The Michigan Supreme Court issued cross-assignment orders authorizing probate judges to preside over divorces and other matters that were formerly heard only by circuit judges.

Cross-assignments were not desirable, however, from either a jurisdictional or practical standpoint. In 2002, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, PA 682. The act permits judges who are identified in a plan for the family division to exercise circuit court authority in family cases. The act requires each court to establish a plan for the family division by July 1, 2003.

In keeping with PA 682, the Michigan Supreme Court directed the chief judges of each circuit and probate court to establish plans for the family division. The chief judges were encouraged to seek input from circuit and probate judges, court staff, court stakeholders, and other entities serving families. In collaboration with the circuit and probate courts, the State Court Administrative Office reviewed and accepted plans for all of Michigan's 57 judicial circuits. The plans describe how each circuit will operate its family division. The plans also detail how circuit and probate courts will coordinate their services for families.

Concurrent Jurisdiction

On April 1, 2003, Public Act 678 of 2002 went into effect, making available a “local option” for trial court consolidation. The “local option,” which the Michigan Supreme Court recommended to the Legislature, allows trial courts to adopt a plan of concurrent jurisdiction within a county or judicial circuit. By so doing, a county or circuit may consolidate its circuit, probate, and district courts into a single trial court.



In Michigan, serious deliberations about trial court reform began with the 1990 report of the Commission on Courts in the 21st Century. In 1995, the Michigan Supreme Court released a report entitled “Justice in Michigan—A Program for Reforming the Judicial Branch of Government.” In that report, the Court outlined a plan which included demonstration projects to test court consolidation. SCAO authorized seven demonstration project courts to test various aspects of court consolidation. In September 2001, a National Center for State Courts report concluded that “[a]ll of the consolidated courts are generally making more efficient use of judicial and quasi-judicial resources under the demonstration projects than the pre-consolidation courts.” In a March 7, 2002 letter to the Governor and Legislature, the Michigan Supreme Court recommended that the Legislature permit trial court consolidation and a “local option” basis. The Legislature followed that recommendation and adopted PA 678.

Public Act 678 of 2002 permits courts to establish concurrent jurisdiction plans, subject to certain conditions and limitations, within a county or judicial circuit. The concurrent jurisdiction plan must be adopted by a majority vote of the judges of the participating trial courts. All plans are subject to approval by SCAO, which has developed guides to help courts develop their plans. At the close of 2003, six of the original seven demonstration projects had submitted concurrent jurisdiction plans for approval by the Supreme Court.

Court Realignment Project

On April 1, 2003, Public Act 92 of 2002 realigned six circuit and six district court boundaries in thirteen counties. The act converted three part-time probate judgeships by expanding their jurisdiction and eliminated a circuit judgeship in the 26th Circuit effective January 1, 2005. Courts in Alger, Luce, Schoolcraft, Mackinac, Chippewa, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Alpena, Montmorency, Otsego, Crawford, Kalkaska, Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco, Arenac, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Lake, Mason, Newaygo and Oceana counties were affected. The maps on pages 23, 36, 46, and 47 in this report display the courts as they were aligned after April 1, 2003.

The realignment project posed significant logistical and organizational challenges for SCAO and the affected trial courts. With SCAO’s assistance, the trial courts and other local authorities developed plans to address such issues as costs and operations. The primary objective of the project was to ensure an organized and efficient transition, with an eye to improving court services, trial court operations, and the administration of justice. The project was completed in all affected courts by March 2003.

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Drug Treatment Courts

Offenders who are addicted to alcohol or drugs often find themselves the subject of criminal proceedings. In the past, courts punished offenders without addressing their underlying addictions, the result being that offenders frequently cycled in and out of the justice system.

Drug courts, by contrast, treat addiction as a complex disease. Participation in the drug court program is limited to non-violent offenders. Drug court participants are required to enter a guilty plea and participate in court-supervised treatment and other services. While in the program, participants must undergo random testing for drugs and alcohol.

“Drug courts treat addiction as a complex disease.”

The Michigan Supreme Court and the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy provide drug court funding. Courts receive annual grants to plan, implement, or continue operation of a drug court. Funding is provided for adult, juvenile and alcohol-based drug courts. Each local program must adhere to the *10 Key Components of Drug Courts* developed by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

There are 36 drug courts operating in Michigan and an additional 27 are in the planning stages. The drug courts include programs for adults, juveniles, families, and drivers arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs.

Family drug courts are an emerging program within the drug court field. The goal of the family drug court is to establish an integrated, court-based collaboration that protects children from abuse and neglect stemming from substance abuse. Timely court decisions, coordinated services, treatment, and court-ordered placements are all tools of the family drug court.

The Judiciary is working with the Department of Corrections and the Office of Drug Control Policy to use drug treatment courts to assist in avoiding prison bed space growth for nonviolent offenders. These funds are targeting nonviolent probation violators and other nonviolent felony offenders who, based on local sentencing practices, are otherwise bound for prison. The long run goal is to reduce drug use and recidivism among this population of offenders.

Research indicates that the national average recidivism rate for those who complete a drug court program is between 4 and 29 percent as compared to 48 percent for those who do not participate. In addition, drug courts typically cost between \$2,500 and \$4,000 per offender per year as opposed to incarceration costs ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per offender per year (source: National Association of Drug Court Professionals).

Teen Courts

Teen courts are increasingly used by family division judges for juveniles who commit minor offenses or status offenses or who are involved with the judicial system as a first-time offender. Typically, a group of peers reviews the case, takes testimony, and recommends an outcome. Some teen courts act as a diversion program while others use an informal court

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Teen Courts

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process or the consent calendar as a method of disposition. In all forms of teen court, the juvenile and the parents must agree to have the case resolved by the teen court process and acknowledge their responsibilities.

COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM

In 1990, SCAO began funding the Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP). CDRP centers are local non-profit organizations; they receive grant funding through SCAO to provide mediation to the public. In mediation, a trained neutral party assists people in a dispute by helping them to reach their own resolution without going to trial. In some jurisdictions, CDRP centers mediate small claims and landlord tenant cases; in others, citizens in contested adult guardianship matters resolve their disputes informally through mediation. In addition,

Michigan courts are increasingly using CDRP centers to help resolve post-judgment domestic relations disputes over parenting time or child custody.

In 2003, parties in 6,829 cases attempted to settle their disputes using the services of CDRP. Of these cases, seventy-five percent were resolved through a CDRP center.

In 2003, following a review of the dispute resolution services available at CDRP centers, SCAO concluded that some courts were not using CDRP centers to their full potential. While some courts had actively used the CDRP centers, other courts had not taken full advantage of the services offered. In 2004, the CDRP centers, using their SCAO grants, will collaborate with trial court chief judges to assess the current services being provided and the potential for new or expanded services.



JUDICIAL ACTIVITY & CASELOAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **Michigan Supreme Court** is Michigan's court of last resort, with final authority over all state courts. In 2003, 2,256 cases were filed with the Supreme Court. Civil cases accounted for 36 percent of the filings and criminal cases accounted for 64 percent. The Court disposed of 2,431 cases. More detail on the Supreme Court can be found on pages 16 and 17 of this report.
- The **Court of Appeals** is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. In 2003, 7,445 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. The Court disposed of 7,708 cases. Of the dispositions, 54 percent were by order and 46 percent were by opinion. More information about the Court of Appeals can be found on pages 18 through 20 of this report.
- The **Circuit Court** is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions. In addition, the circuit court hears appeals from other courts and from administrative agencies. In 2003, 335,571 cases were filed in circuit courts. Information on the circuit courts can be found on pages 21 through 34 of this report.
- The **Probate Court** has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. In most counties, probate judges have also been assigned to the circuit court to help manage the caseload in the circuit court family division. In 2003, 64,964 cases were filed in the probate courts. Forty percent of these filings pertained to the administration of decedent estates and small estates. Another 36 percent were guardianships and conservatorships. More information on probate courts can be found on pages 35 through 42 of this report.
- The **District Court** has jurisdiction over all civil litigation up to \$25,000 including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, and civil infractions; most traffic violations; and a range of criminal cases. In 2003, over 3.6 million cases were filed with the district courts. Of this number, over 2.6 million were traffic misdemeanors and traffic civil infractions. More information on district courts can be found on pages 43 through 55 of this report.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is Michigan's court of last resort, consisting of seven justices. Cases come before the Court during a term that starts August 1 and runs through July 31 of the following year. The Court hears oral arguments in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term.

Michigan Supreme Court justices are elected for eight-year terms. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Michigan Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and at the time of election must be under 70 years of age. The justices' salaries are fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the State. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices of the Court elect a member of the Court as Chief Justice.



Each year, the Michigan Supreme Court receives over 2,000 applications for leave to appeal from litigants. In most cases, the litigants seek review of Michigan Court of Appeals decisions. Each justice is responsible for reviewing every case to determine whether leave to appeal should be granted. The justices are assisted by the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent research staff. The Court issues a decision in all cases filed with the Clerk's Office. Cases that are not accepted for oral argument may be decided by an order or an opinion. The Court may affirm or reverse the Michigan Court of Appeals, remand a case to the trial court, or adopt a correct Court of Appeals decision.

The Michigan Supreme Court has discretion to hear cases and grants leave to appeal in those cases of greatest complexity and public import, where additional briefing and oral argument are essential to reaching a just outcome.

In 2003, 2,256 cases were filed with the Michigan Supreme Court. During the year, the Court disposed of 2,431 cases. Of the 2,256 new filings, 812 or 36 percent were civil cases (including civil incarcerated) and 1,444 or 64 percent were criminal. As of December 2003, the total number of cases pending was 1,033. This represents a reduction of 1,129 or 52 percent from 1997.

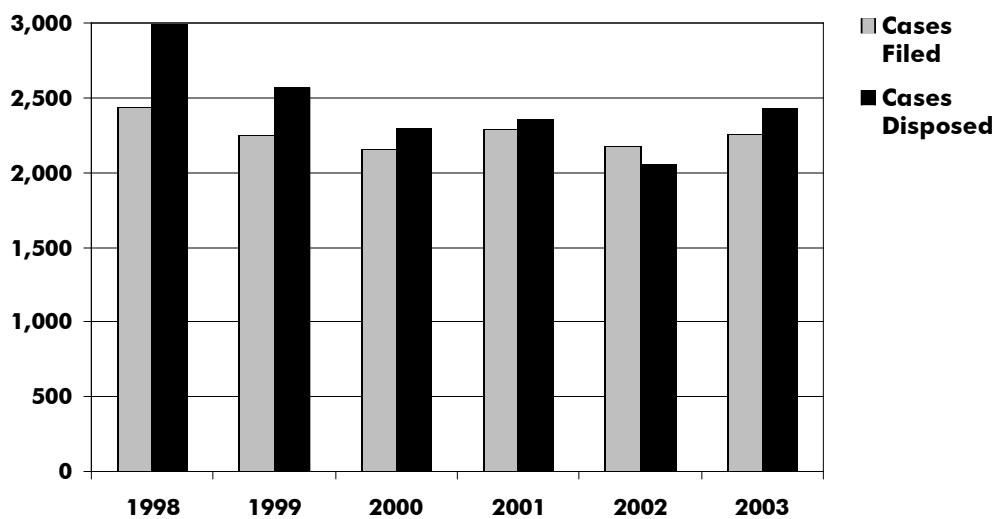
2003 BENCH

Chief Justice
Maura D. Corrigan

Justices
Michael F. Cavanagh
Elizabeth A. Weaver
Marilyn Kelly
Clifford W. Taylor
Robert P. Young, Jr.
Stephen J. Markman

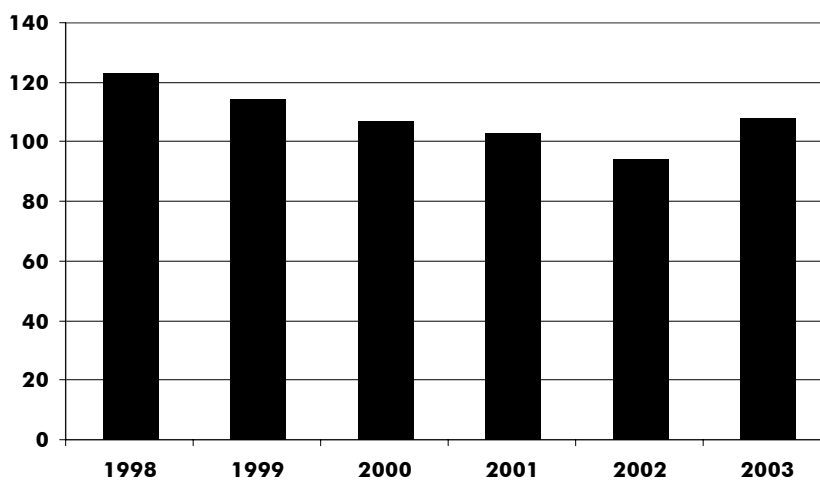
Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Cases Filed	2,436	2,246	2,159	2,291	2,180	2,256
Cases Disposed	2,992	2,571	2,302	2,359	2,052	2,431



Supreme Court Disposition Rate

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Disposition Rate	123	114	107	103	94	108



Disposition Rate - Cases Disposed Per 100 New Filings

COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The practices and procedures of the Court of Appeals are governed by Michigan Court Rules set by the Supreme Court. Court of Appeals judges' salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer admitted to practice for at least 5 years, under 70 years of age at the time of election, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Judges are elected from four districts, which are drawn by the Legislature along county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may change the number of judges and alter the districts in which they are elected by changing state law.

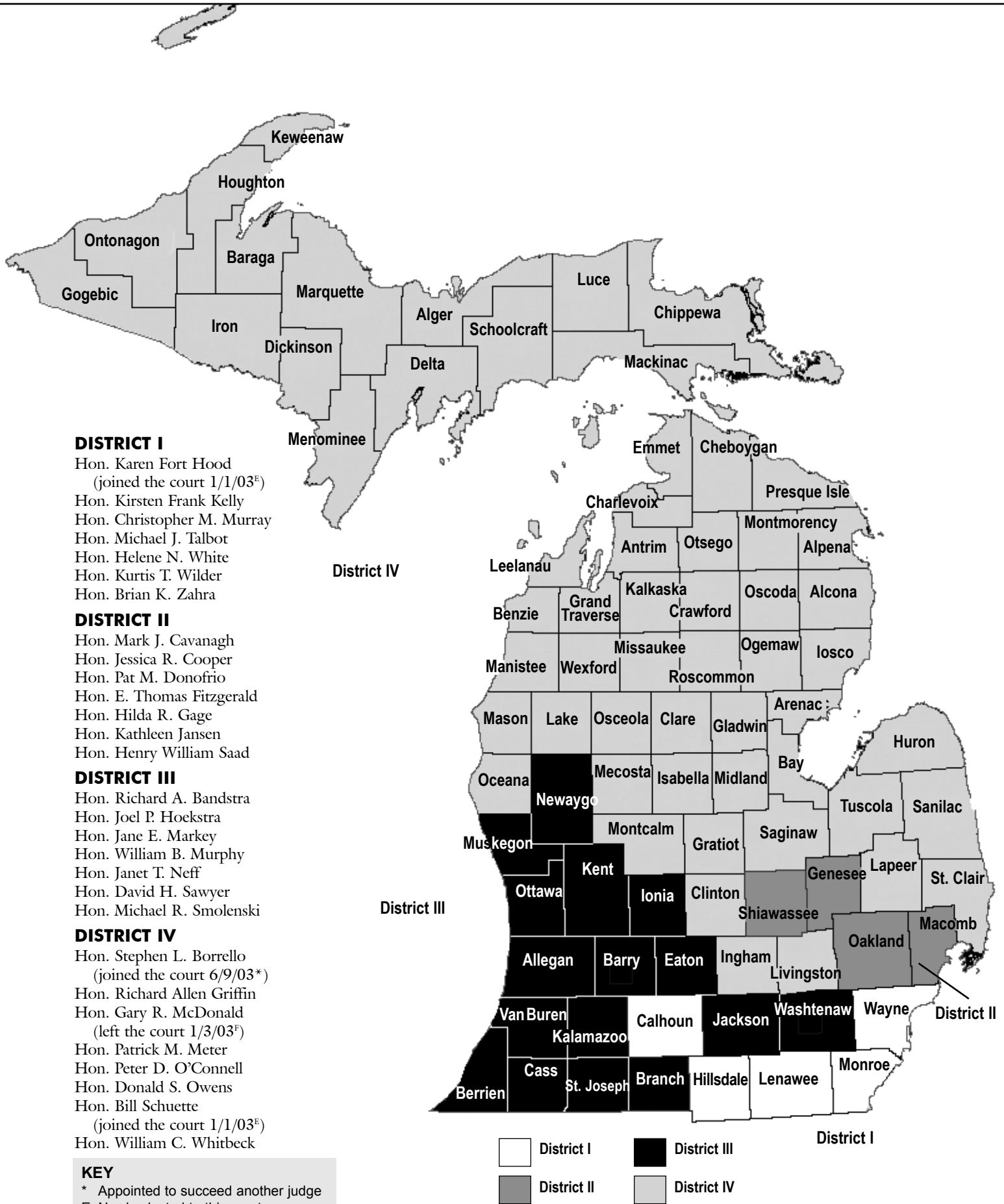
In March of 2002, the districts were realigned: Hillsdale and Calhoun counties were moved from District III to District I, Newaygo, Ionia and Eaton counties were moved from District IV to District III, and Livingston County was moved from District III to District IV.

Panels of three Court of Appeals judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Marquette. Panels are rotated geographically so that the judges hear cases in each of the Court's locations.

The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense other than by a guilty plea have an appeal by right under the state constitution.

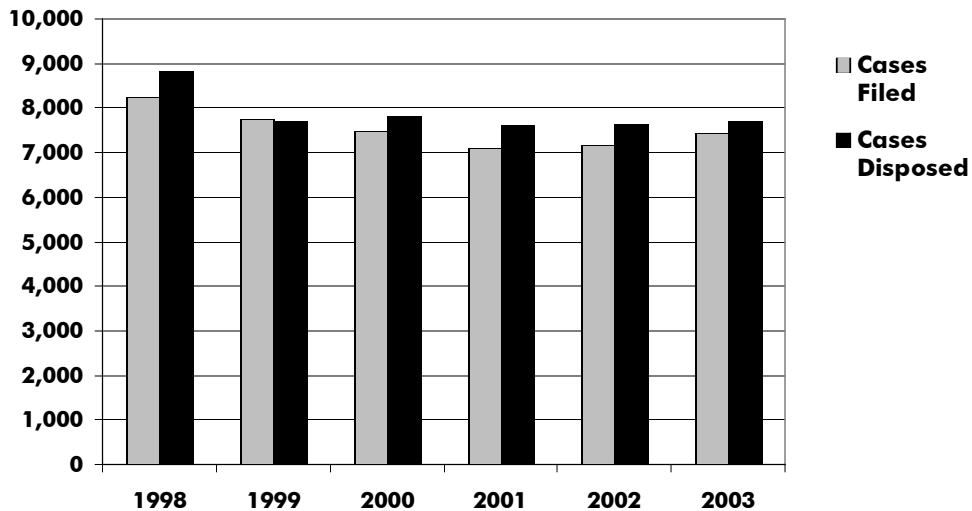
In 2003, 7,445 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. This represents an increase of slightly more than 4% (289 over the 7,156 cases filed in 2002).

In 2003, the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,708 cases, an increase of about .8% (61) over the 7,647 cases disposed in 2002. Of the dispositions, 4,150 (54%) were by order and 3,558 (46%) were by opinion.



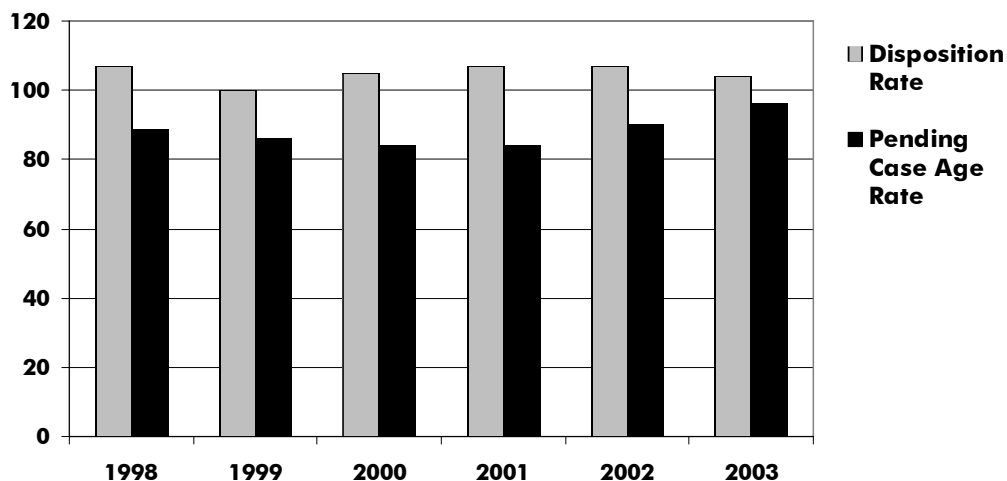
Court of Appeals Cases Filed and Disposed

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Cases Filed	8,866	8,264	7,731	7,460	7,102	7,156	7,445
Cases Disposed	10,242	8,806	7,715	7,799	7,606	7,647	7,708



Court of Appeals Disposition Rate and Pending Case Age Rate

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Disposition Rate	116	107	100	105	107	107	104
Pending Case Age Rate	90	89	86	84	84	90	96



Disposition Rate - Cases Disposed Per 100 New Filings
 Pending Case Age Rate - Percent of Cases Less Than 18 Months Old

CIRCUIT COURT

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. The circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The circuit court's original jurisdiction includes criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; civil cases over \$25,000; family division cases; and appeals from other courts and administrative agencies.

In addition, the circuit court has superintending control over courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

Circuit judges are elected for terms of six years in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer admitted to practice for five years and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The Legislature sets salaries for circuit judges.

NEW CASELOAD REPORTING SYSTEM

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. The new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002. Because this is a relatively recent change, this 2003 Annual Report will discuss the key features of the new reporting system.

Highlights of the New System

Before 2002, circuit court caseloads were reported under a number of broad categories: appeals, civil, criminal, domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, and other family division cases. Caseload reporting included a few distinctions in types of proceedings within those categories.

By contrast, beginning in 2002, caseloads were reported by individual case type. These individual case types have been combined so 2002 and 2003 data may be compared against categories from previous years. The 2002 and 2003 Circuit Court Statistical Supplements provide additional detailed information.

New case types were added to collect more detail about the types of adoption petitions being filed. The new system also added case types for new kinds of cases created by the Legislature in recent years.

New filings and reopened cases are reported in the same manner as in previous years. However, case disposition reporting changed in 2002. Under the new system, a case disposition is reported when that case is adjudicated. Formerly, a case disposition was reported only after a final judgment was filed in the case.

Case dispositions for 2002 and 2003 include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria for measurement are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, the new system provides a more precise pending caseload and accurate measures of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. Before comparing total 2002 and 2003 dispositions to numbers for previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

Caseload data for 2002 and 2003 includes new filings in juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings. In addition, 2002 and 2003 juvenile caseload data includes reopened cases. Reporting in child protective proceedings also changed in 2002. Before 2002, each child associated with a child protective petition was counted as one filing. A single petition could involve more than one child, so the number of filings in prior years appears to be significantly greater than 2002 and 2003 filings. In 2002 and 2003, courts reported both the number of petitions filed and the number of children associated with those filings. As a result, it is more difficult to make comparisons between child protective new filings for 2002 and 2003 and those for prior years. It is possible, however, to arrive at some conclusions about overall trends by analyzing the number of filings, the number of children associated with those filings, and the number of supplemental petitions for termination proceedings. To help assess the overall juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings caseload, the number of minors in the system in 2002 and 2003 may be compared against the numbers of minors for previous years. For other case-related information regarding child protective and adoption proceedings, see the 2002 and 2003 Circuit Court Statistical Supplements.

Finally, the circuit courts provided numbers of personal protection orders actually issued against both adults and minors during 2002 and 2003, as well as the number of personal protection orders that were rescinded in those years.

Circuit Court



*Circuit Court Judges***C01**

Hon. Michael R. Smith

C02Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
(joined the court 12/16/03*)Hon. John N. Fields
(left the court 8/15/03^R)Hon. Casper O. Grathwohl
Hon. John T. Hammond
Hon. Paul L. Maloney**C03**Hon. David J. Allen
(joined the court 12/22/03*)Hon. Wendy M. Baxter
Hon. Annette J. Berry
Hon. Gregory D. Bill
Hon. Susan D. Borman
Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin
Hon. Margie R. Braxton
Hon. Helen E. Brown
Hon. William Leo Cahalan
Hon. Bill Callahan
Hon. Michael J. Callahan
Hon. James R. Chylinski
Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.
Hon. Sean F. Cox
Hon. George W. Crockett, III
(left the court 4/1/03^R)
Hon. Daphne Means Curtis
Hon. Christopher D. Dingell
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Gershwin Allen Drain
Hon. Maggie Drake
Hon. Prentis Edwards
Hon. Robert L. Evans
(left the court 2/1/03^R)
Hon. Vonda R. Evans
Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.
(joined the court 8/11/03*)Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard
Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr.
Hon. William J. Giovan
Hon. David Alan Groner
(joined the court 3/31/03*)
Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr.
Hon. Pamela R. Harwood
Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway
Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway
Hon. Diane Marie Hathaway
Hon. Michael M. Hathaway
Hon. Richard P. Hathaway
Hon. Thomas Edward Jackson
Hon. Vera Massey Jones
Hon. Mary Beth Kelly**C03** *(continued)*Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny
Hon. Arthur J. Lombard
Hon. Kathleen I. MacDonald
Hon. Sheila Gibson Manning
Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy
Hon. Warfield Moore, Jr.
Hon. Bruce A. Morrow
Hon. John A. Murphy
Hon. Susan Bieke Neilson
Hon. Maria L. Oxholm
Hon. Lita Masini Popke
Hon. James J. Rashid
Hon. Daniel P. Ryan
Hon. Michael F. Sapala
Hon. Louis F. Simmons, Jr.
Hon. Leslie Kim Smith
(joined the court 3/31/03*)
Hon. Jeanne Stempien
Hon. Cynthia Diane Stephens
Hon. Craig S. Strong
Hon. Brian R. Sullivan
Hon. Kaye Tertzag
Hon. Deborah A. Thomas
Hon. Edward M. Thomas
Hon. Isidore B. Torres
Hon. Leonard Townsend
Hon. Mary M. Waterstone
Hon. Kym L. Worthy
(left the court 8/1/03^S)
Hon. Carole F. Youngblood
Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski**C04**Hon. Edward J. Grant
Hon. John G. McBain, Jr.
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Charles A. Nelson
Hon. Chad C. Schmucker**C05**

Hon. James H. Fisher

C06Hon. James M. Alexander
Hon. Martha Anderson
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Steven N. Andrews
Hon. Patrick J. Brennan
Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
Hon. Nanci J. Grant
Hon. Richard D. Kuhn
Hon. Denise Langford-Morris
Hon. John James McDonald
Hon. Fred M. Mester
Hon. Rudy J. Nichols
Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts
Hon. Gene Schnelz
Hon. Edward Sosnick
Hon. Deborah G. Tyner
Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr.
Hon. Joan E. Young**C07**Hon. Duncan M. Beagle
Hon. Joseph J. Farah
Hon. Judith A. Fullerton
Hon. John A. Gadola
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Archie L. Hayman
Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut
Hon. Robert M. Ransom
Hon. Richard B. Yuille**C08**Hon. David A. Hoort
Hon. Charles H. Miel**C09**Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz
Hon. J. Richardson Johnson
Hon. Richard Ryan Lamb
Hon. Philip D. Schaefer
Hon. William G. Schma**C10**Hon. Fred L. Borchard
Hon. Leopold P. Borrello
Hon. William A. Crane
Hon. Lynda L. Heathscott
Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek**C11**

Hon. Charles H. Stark

C12

Hon. Garfield W. Hood

C13Hon. Thomas G. Power
Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.**C14**Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.
Hon. Timothy G. Hicks
Hon. William C. Marietti
Hon. John C. Ruck**C15**

Hon. Michael H. Cherry

C16Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr.
Hon. Richard L. Caretti
Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski
Hon. Diane M. Druzinski
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Peter J. Maceroni
Hon. Donald G. Miller
Hon. Deborah A. Servitto
Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
Hon. Mark S. Switalski
Hon. Matthew S. Switalski
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Antonio P. Viviano
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)**C17**Hon. George S. Buth
Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney
Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III**KEY**

- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- E Newly elected to this court
- H Reorganization transfer
- R Retired
- S Resigned

*Circuit Court Judges***C17** (*continued*)

Hon. Dennis C. Kolenda
 Hon. Dennis B. Leiber
 Hon. Steven M. Pestka
 (joined the court 5/8/03*)
 Hon. James Robert Redford
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. H. David Soet
 (left the court 3/1/03^R)
 Hon. Paul J. Sullivan
 Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C18

Hon. Lawrence M. Bielawski
 Hon. William J. Caprathe
 Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt

C19

Hon. James M. Batzer

C20

Hon. Calvin L. Bosman
 Hon. Wesley J. Nykamp
 Hon. Edward R. Post

C21

Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain

C22

Hon. Archie Cameron Brown
 Hon. Timothy P. Connors
 Hon. Melinda Morris
 Hon. Donald E. Shelton
 Hon. David S. Swartz

C23

Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron
 (joined the court 4/1/03^H)
 Hon. William F. Myles
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C24

Hon. Donald A. Teeple

C25

Hon. Thomas L. Solka
 Hon. John R. Weber

C26

Hon. John F. Kowalski
 Hon. Joseph P. Swallow

C27

Hon. Anthony A. Monton
 Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

C28

Hon. Charles D. Corwin

C29

Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew
 Hon. Randy L. Tähvonen

C30

Hon. Laura Baird
 Hon. Thomas Leo Brown
 Hon. William E. Collette
 Hon. James R. Giddings

C30 (*continued*)

Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)
 Hon. Paula J. M. Manderfield
 Hon. Beverley Renee Nettles-Nickerson
 (joined the court 1/1/03^E)

C31

Hon. James P. Adair
 Hon. Peter E. Deegan
 Hon. Daniel J. Kelly

C32

Hon. Roy D. Gotham

C33

Hon. Richard M. Pajtas

C34

Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner
 Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron
 (left the court 4/1/03^H)

C35

Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco

C36

Hon. William C. Buhl
 Hon. Paul E. Hamre

C37

Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht
 Hon. James C. Kingsley
 Hon. Stephen B. Miller
 Hon. Conrad J. Sindt

C38

Hon. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
 Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
 Hon. William F. LaVoy

C39

Hon. Harvey A. Koselka
 Hon. Timothy P. Pickard

C40

Hon. Michael P. Higgins
 Hon. Nick O. Holowka

C41

Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind
 Hon. Richard J. Celello

C42

Hon. Paul J. Clulo
 Hon. Thomas L. Ludington

C43

Hon. Michael E. Dodge

C44

Hon. Daniel A. Burress
 Hon. Stanley J. Latreille

C45

Hon. James P. Noecker

C46

Hon. Alton T. Davis
 Hon. Dennis F. Murphy

C47

Hon. Stephen T. Davis

C48

Hon. Harry A. Beach
 Hon. George R. Corsiglia

C49

Hon. Lawrence C. Root

C50

Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros

C51

Hon. Richard I. Cooper

C52

Hon. M. Richard Knoblock

C53

Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich

C54

Hon. Patrick Reed Joslyn

C55

Hon. Kurt N. Hansen

C56

Hon. Thomas S. Eveland
 Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven

C57

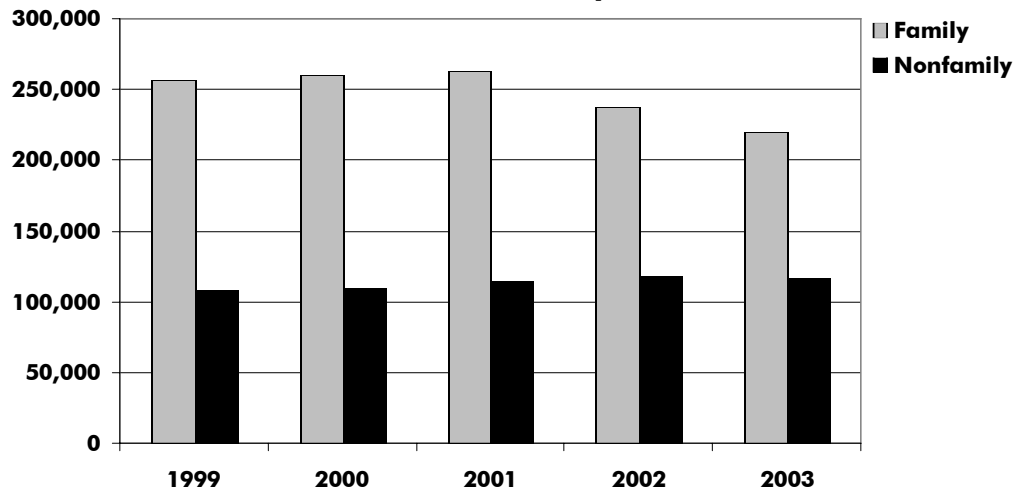
Hon. Charles W. Johnson

In 2003, 335,571 cases were filed in the circuit court. Of this total, 219,330 or 65.4 percent were family division filings and 116,241 or 34.6 percent were non-family filings.

Circuit Court Filings by Division

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Family	257,053	259,821	262,628	237,651	219,330
Nonfamily	108,413	109,291	114,193	117,941	116,241
Total Filings	365,466	369,112	376,821	355,592	335,571

Circuit Court Cases Filed by Division



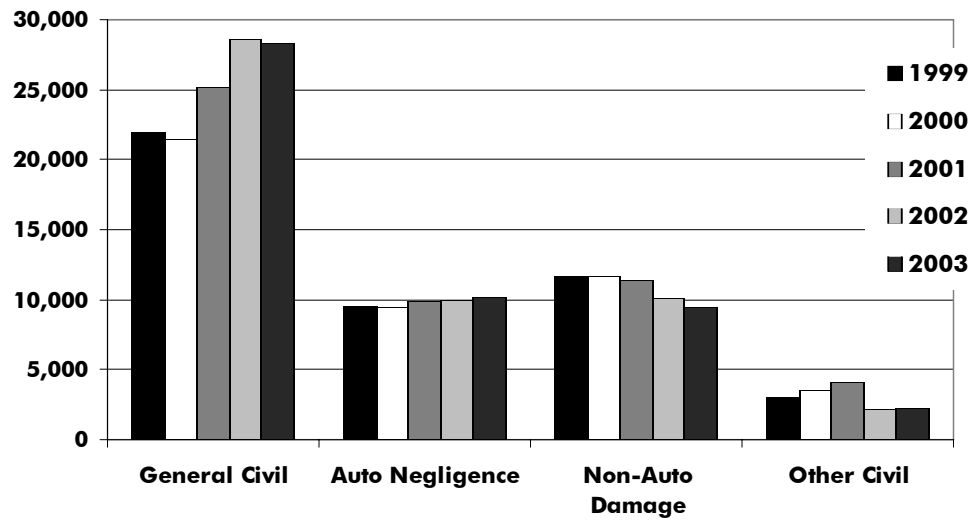
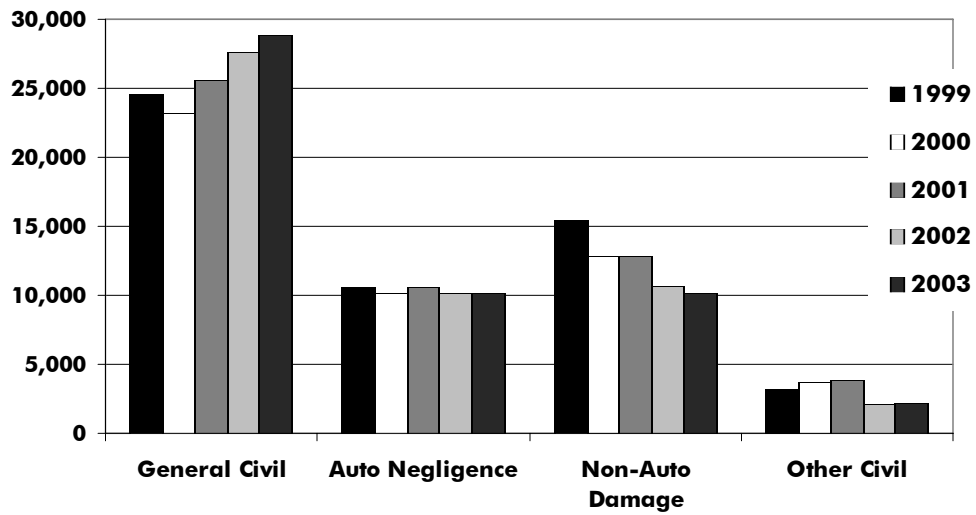
General civil filings increased substantially in 2001 and 2002 but leveled off in 2003 at 28,287 filings. Auto negligence filings continued to increase each year at an average rate of 1.8 percent per year since 1999. Non-auto damage filings continued to decrease at an average rate of 5.0 percent per year since 1999. Other civil filings decreased substantially in 2002 and remained low with 2,222 filings in 2003.

Since 1999, circuit courts disposed of an average of 4.3 percent more general civil cases each year, disposing of 28,789 cases in 2003. In civil cases overall, circuit courts disposed of more cases in 1999 than any year since.

Circuit Court Civil Case Filings and Dispositions

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
General Civil	22,015	21,460	25,194	28,628	28,287
Auto Negligence	9,495	9,381	9,886	9,998	10,185
Non-Auto Damage	11,646	11,703	11,311	10,118	9,439
Other Civil	3,039	3,572	4,054	2,191	2,222
Total Filings	46,195	46,116	50,445	50,935	50,133

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
General Civil	24,543	23,141	25,545	27,581	28,789
Auto Negligence	10,574	10,057	10,594	10,101	10,136
Non-Auto Damage	15,411	12,851	12,831	10,699	10,112
Other Civil	3,184	3,724	3,804	2,046	2,130
Total Dispositions	53,712	49,773	52,774	50,427	51,167

Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed**Circuit Court Civil Cases Disposed**

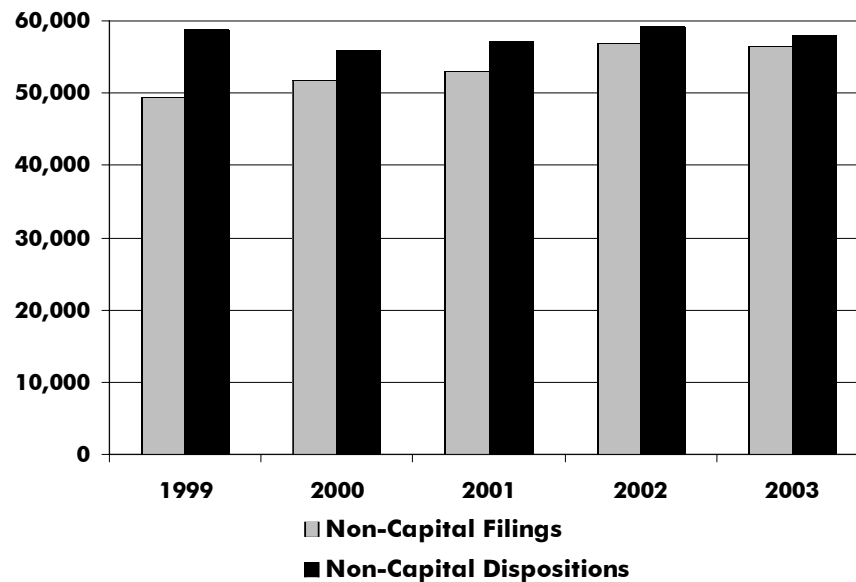
Total criminal filings increased each year since 1999, except in 2003, when filings leveled off at 60,208 cases, slightly fewer than in 2002. The majority of these cases are non-capital felony filings against adult defendants. Felony filings against juveniles remained at less than 100 per year. On average, circuit courts disposed of 61,533 criminal cases per year since 1999.

Circuit Court Criminal Filings and Dispositions

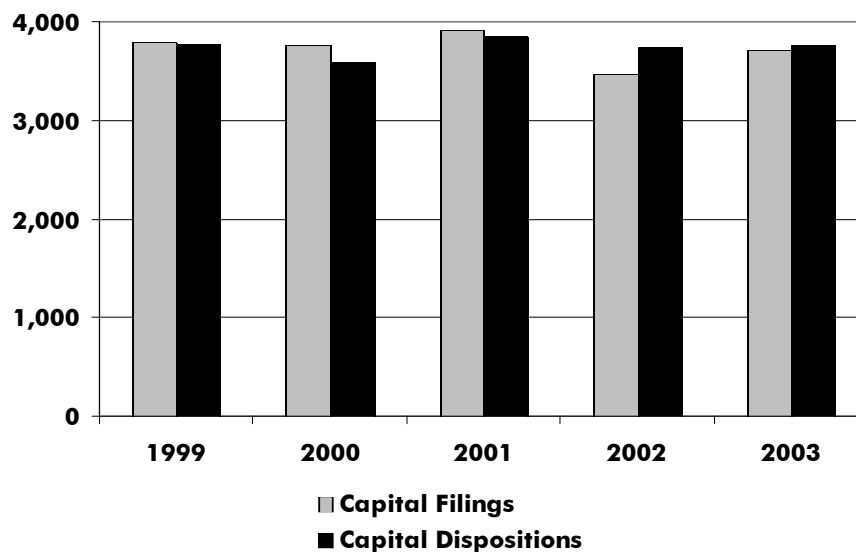
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Non-Capital	49,311	51,686	52,991	56,854	56,414
Capital	3,780	3,758	3,907	3,468	3,707
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	NA	93	87
Total Filings	53,091	55,444	56,898	60,415	60,208

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Non-Capital	58,696	55,916	57,071	59,116	58,002
Capital	3,778	3,583	3,846	3,737	3,757
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	NA	81	82
Total Dispositions	62,474	59,499	60,917	62,934	61,841

Circuit Court Criminal Non-Capital Cases Filed and Disposed



Circuit Court Criminal Capital Cases Filed and Disposed

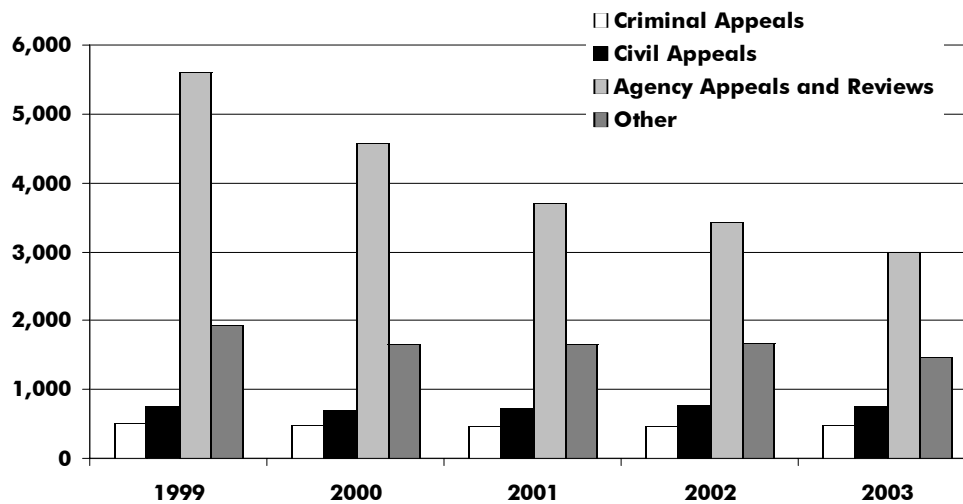


Circuit Court Appeals, Administrative Review, and Extraordinary Writ Filings & Dispositions

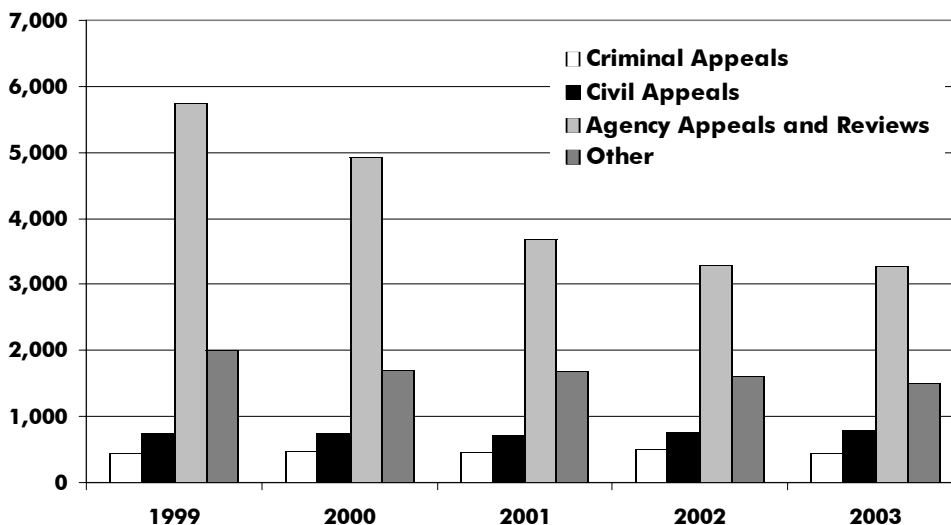
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Criminal Appeals	496	484	454	456	475
Civil Appeals	757	687	723	765	757
Agency Appeals and Reviews	5,607	4,572	3,701	3,437	2,994
Other	1,923	1,657	1,662	1,679	1,453
Total Filings	8,783	7,400	6,540	6,337	5,679
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Criminal Appeals	437	484	459	495	436
Civil Appeals	747	747	714	760	793
Agency Appeals and Reviews	5,726	4,927	3,684	3,296	3,272
Other	2,006	1,711	1,682	1,623	1,506
Total Dispositions	8,916	7,869	6,539	6,174	6,007

Appeals (excluding civil appeals), administrative reviews, and extraordinary writ filings continued to decrease each year. Civil appeals increased by an average of 0.2 percent per year since 1999 but agency appeals and review decreased by an average of 14.4 percent per year. Dispositions followed this trend with an average decrease of 9.2 percent per year.

Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs Filed



Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs Disposed



In 2003, 219,330 cases were filed in the family division of circuit court, representing 65.4 percent of all circuit court filings.

Of the filings in the family division, over twenty percent were divorce cases (with and without children). Another ten percent were paternity or support cases. In recent years, filings for all of these case types decreased. Paternity cases decreased most substantially to 10,718 filings in 2003, about half of the filings in 1999, 2000, or 2001. Dispositions of these case types also declined in recent years.

The decrease in paternity filings may be due to a change in Michigan's Paternity Act. The statutory revision bars an action to determine paternity if the child's father acknowledges paternity under the state's Acknowledgement of Parentage Act.

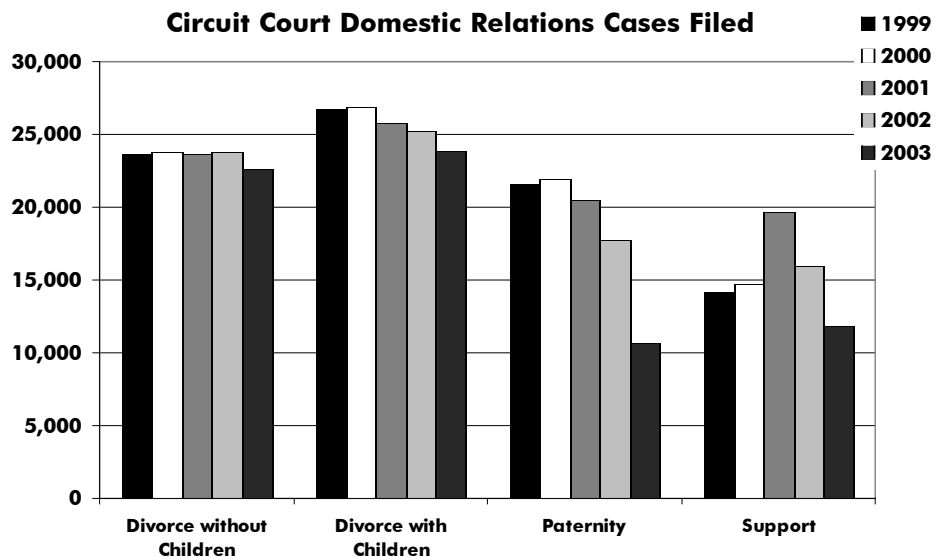
It is not known why fewer support actions are being filed. Two early retirements and the centralization of support specialists within the Office of Child Support, resulting in fewer support specialist staff to assist the prosecutor with support actions, may have impacted the number of support filings.

Circuit Court Domestic Relations Filings and Dispositions

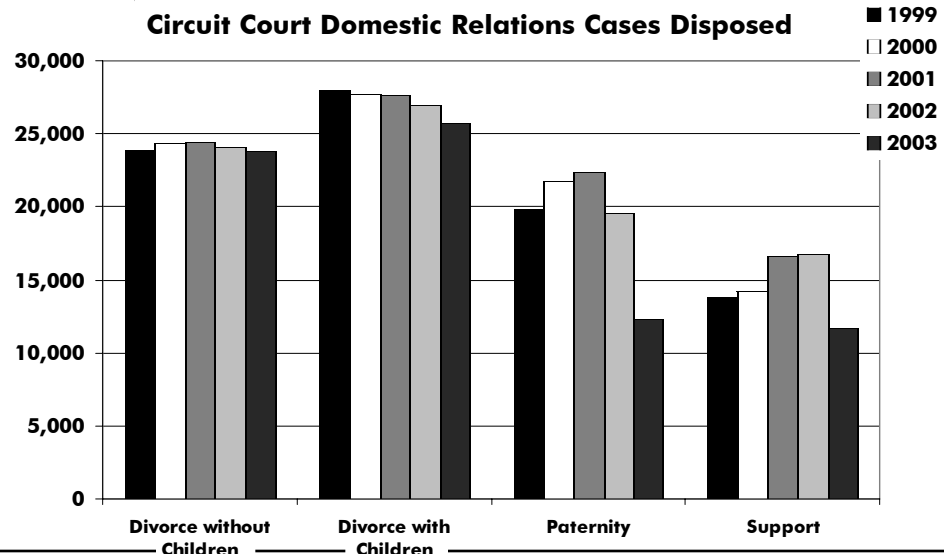
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Divorce without Children	23,663	23,760	23,679	23,760	22,628
Divorce with Children	26,716	26,799	25,796	25,172	23,802
Paternity	21,493	21,940	20,493	17,725	10,718
Support	14,114	14,758	19,595	15,971	11,803
Other Domestic*	4,983	4,903	5,261	3,539	4,456
UIFSA*	2,970	4,043	4,072	5,570	2,833
Total Filings	93,939	96,203	98,896	91,737	76,240
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Divorce without Children	23,830	24,323	24,484	24,088	23,759
Divorce with Children	27,942	27,739	27,650	26,909	25,701
Paternity	19,793	21,755	22,353	19,554	12,235
Support	13,818	14,153	16,568	16,767	11,723
Other Domestic*	4,664	4,629	5,003	3,453	4,465
UIFSA*	3,014	3,938	4,018	5,114	2,596
Total Dispositions	93,061	96,537	100,076	95,885	80,479

* Assist with Discovery (UD) and UIFSA Establishment (UE) cases are included in the UIFSA category for 1999-2002 and in the Other Domestic category for 2003.

Circuit Court Domestic Relations Cases Filed



Circuit Court Domestic Relations Cases Disposed



Circuit Court Personal Protection Filings and Dispositions

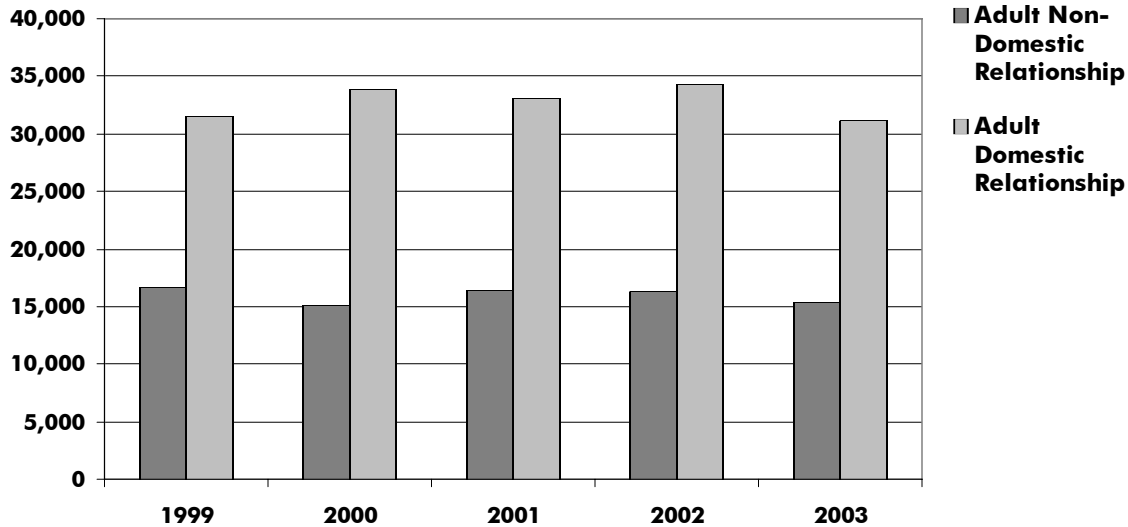
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	16,660	15,144	16,462	16,287	15,405
Adult Domestic Relationship	31,563	33,913	33,123	34,206	31,168
Minor Personal Protection*	NA	875	1,279	1,278	1,235
Total Filings	48,223	49,932	50,864	51,771	47,808
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	16,474	15,597	17,092	16,950	15,879
Adult Domestic Relationship	31,039	34,503	34,633	35,417	32,152
Minor Personal Protection*	NA	NA	1,079	1,199	1,173
Total Dispositions	47,513	50,100	51,725	53,566	49,204

* Personal Protection Orders issued against a minor began to be counted separately in 2000.

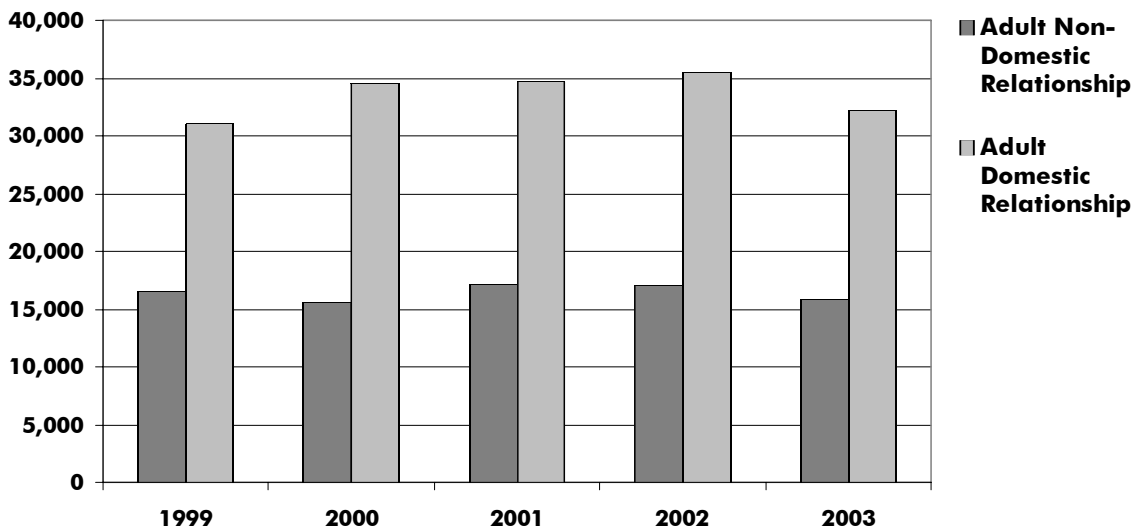
For each year between 1999 and 2003, there was an average of 49,720 filings by persons seeking personal protection orders. Of these, two-thirds were filed for adult domestic relationships and one-third was filed for adult non-domestic relationships. In 2.3 percent of cases, personal protection orders were filed against a minor.

In 2003, 32,495 personal protection orders were issued. Of these, 71 percent were issued for adult domestic relationships, 27 percent were issued for adult non-domestic relationships, and 2 percent were issued against a minor.

Circuit Court Personal Protection Petitions Filed



Circuit Court Personal Protection Petitions Disposed



At the close of 2003, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 17,708 juveniles as a result of delinquency proceedings. Of those juveniles, 14,160 were supervised by the court, 2,112 were supervised by the Department of Community Justice of Wayne County, and 1,436 were supervised by the Family Independence Agency. An additional 10,051 juveniles were still awaiting adjudication.

New filings in delinquency proceedings averaged 60,092 per year since 1999 and have not fluctuated by more than 3 percent on a year-to-year basis. Although juvenile traffic filings have decreased each year since 1999, there was an increase of 9.9 percent between 2002 and 2003.

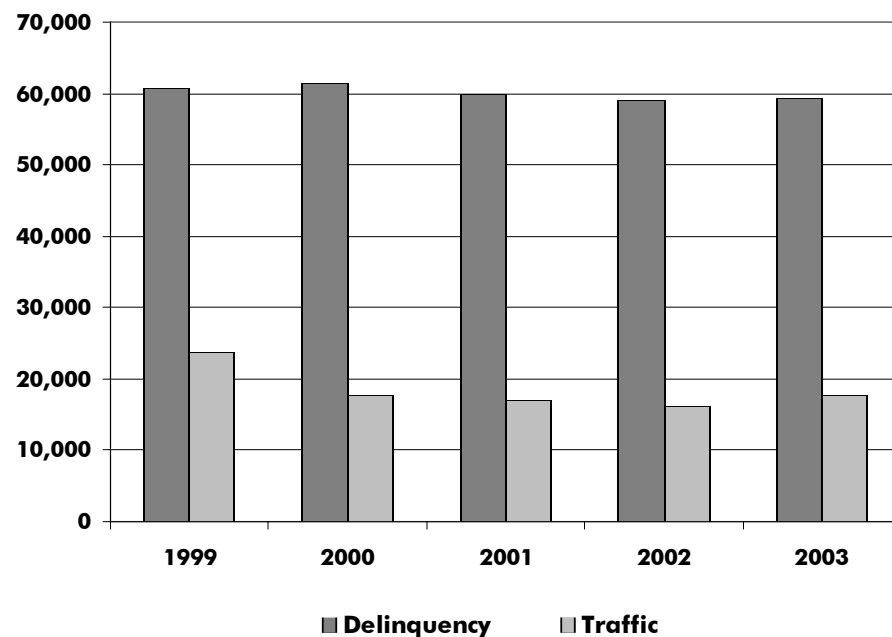
Circuit Court Filings and Dispositions Under Juvenile Code

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Delinquency	60,743	61,410	59,910	59,098	59,298
Traffic	23,738	17,614	17,127	16,087	17,674
Child Protective*	9,529	12,073	12,582	8,589	8,491
Designated	NA	240	180	259	201
Total Filings	94,010	91,337	89,799	84,033	85,664

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Delinquency	NA	NA	NA	59,705	56,849
Traffic	NA	NA	NA	15,551	15,901
Child Protective*	NA	NA	NA	8,313	7,754
Designated	NA	NA	NA	206	163
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	83,775	80,667

*Prior to 2002, the child protective category reflected the number of children associated with these cases. Beginning in 2002, the courts were instructed to report the number of cases in this category and to report the number of children in another data field.

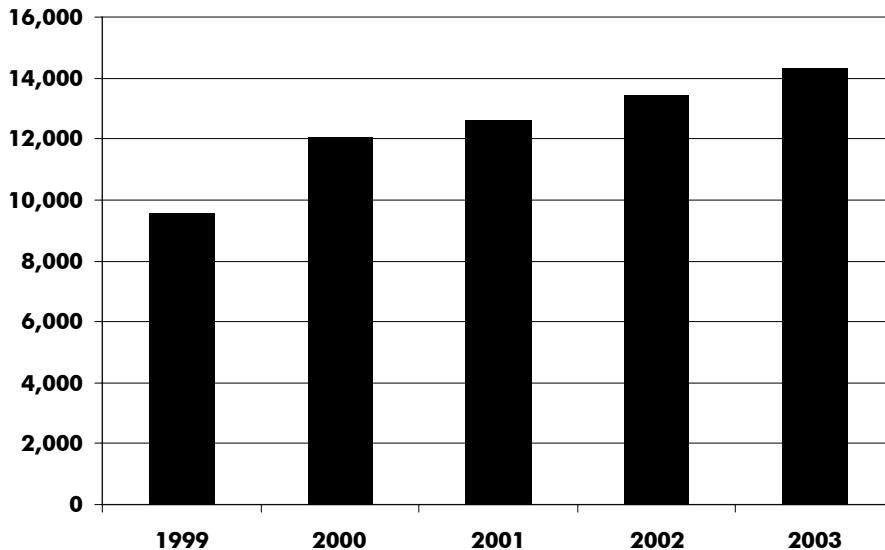
Circuit Court Petitions Filed Under Juvenile Code



Children Involved in Child Protective Cases

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Children Involved in Child Protective Cases	9,529	12,073	12,582	13,443	14,349

Children Involved in Child Protective Cases



Of the 2,520 petitions filed requesting termination of parental rights, 1,096 were filed in the original petition or an amended petition, and 1,424 were filed in supplemental petitions. There were an additional 424 supplemental petitions filed for reasons not associated with termination proceedings.

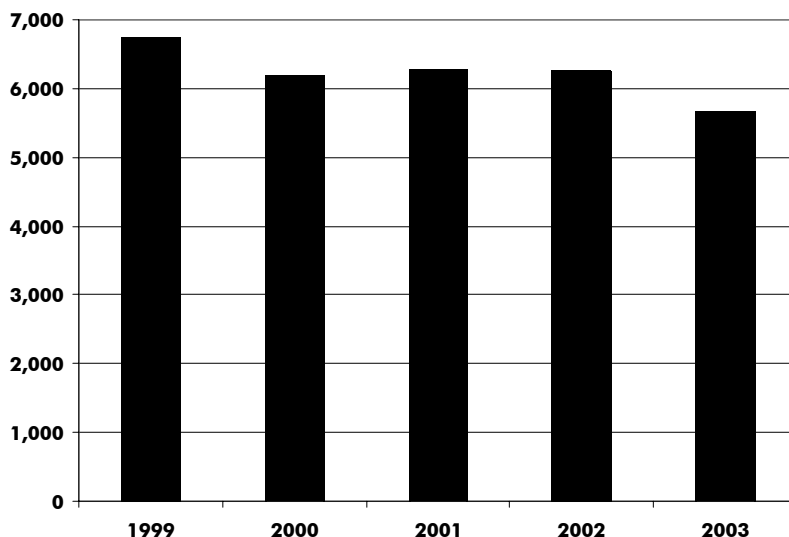
At the close of 2003, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 18,727 children as a result of child protective proceedings. Of that number, 11,513 were temporary wards of the court, 6,406 were permanent wards of the court, and 808 were temporary wards who had been ordered to the Michigan Children's Institute for observation. An additional 3,513 children were still awaiting adjudication.

Of the 14,349 children who came into the system under a new child protective filing in 2003, 1,869 had previously been under the court's jurisdiction. The number of children coming into the system under a new child protective filing increased 6.8% from 2001 to 2002 and another 6.7% from 2002 to 2003.

Circuit Court Filings & Dispositions Under Adoption Code

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Petitions for Adoption Filed	6,729	6,190	6,274	6,251	5,659
Adoptions Finalized	NA	NA	NA	5,456	5,218
Adoption Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	5,847	5,541

Petitions for Adoption Filed



The number of adoption filings reported prior to 2002 included petitions for adoptions, requests for release of adoption information, and petitions for appointment of a confidential intermediary. In 2002 and 2003, circuit courts reported these types of filings separately. In addition, adoption petitions are now reported according to the type of adoption, such as direct adoption, step-parent adoption, agency adoption, etc. For details, see the 2003 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

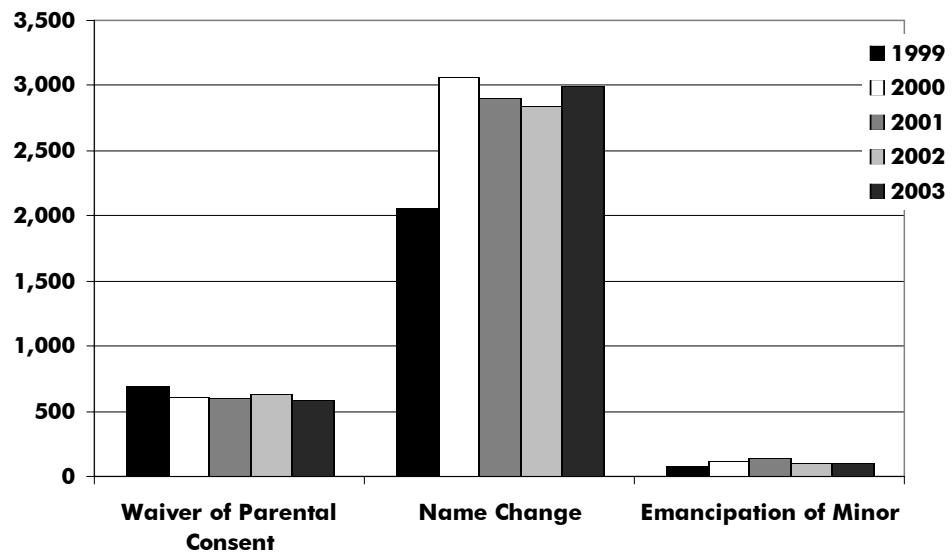
There were 5,659 petitions filed for adoption in 2003, a decrease of 9.5 percent from the previous year. In 2003, 5,218 adoptions were finalized.

Numbers for other family division filings have remained stable, at an average of 3,521 per year. Of these filings, 79 percent were name changes.

Circuit Court Miscellaneous Family Case Filings

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Waiver of Parental Consent	691	613	600	628	588
Name Change	2,058	3,066	2,904	2,838	2,999
Emancipation of Minor	82	113	138	108	109
Infectious Disease	1	4	6	9	3
Safe Delivery of New Born	NA	NA	NA	1	2
Out-of-County Personal Protection Violations Orders	NA	NA	NA	48	49
Total Filings	2,832	3,796	3,648	3,632	3,699

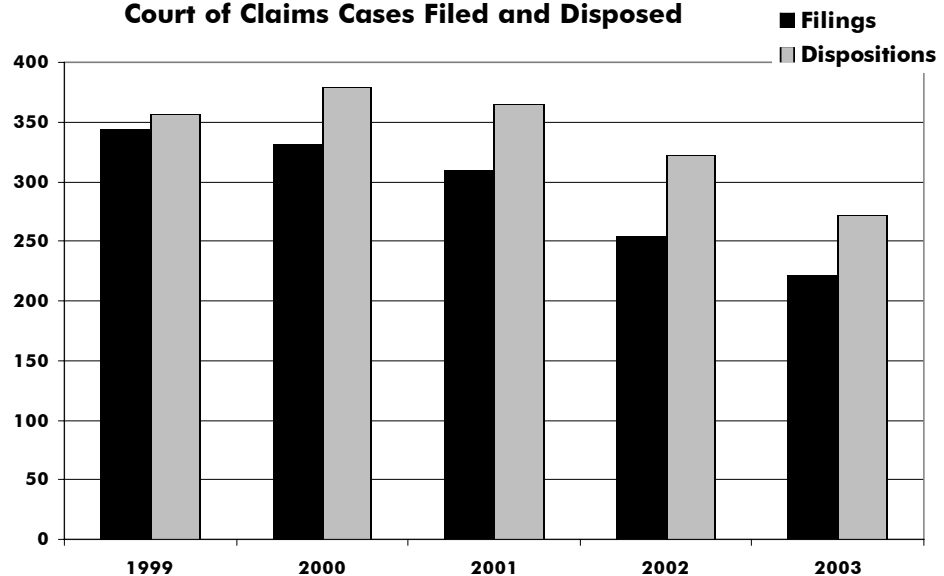
Circuit Court Family Division Miscellaneous Cases Filed



Court of Claims Filings and Dispositions

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Filings	344	331	310	254	221
Dispositions	356	378	365	322	272

Court of Claims Cases Filed and Disposed



PROBATE COURT

Each Michigan county has a probate court with the exception of ten counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts (see map on page 32). Each district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties have one or more judges depending, in large part, on the population and caseload within the county.

The probate court has jurisdiction over admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Probate judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for probate judges.

In most courts, probate judges have been assigned to the circuit court in order to help manage the caseload in the family division.

NEW CASELOAD REPORTING SYSTEM

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. The new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002. Because this is a relatively recent change, this 2003 Annual Report will discuss the key features of the new reporting system.

Highlights of the New System

Before 2002, probate court caseloads were reported by individual case type. The data collected on cases involving fiduciaries represented the number of fiduciaries, as opposed to the number of petitions filed. Typically, a case will have only one fiduciary, but some have multiple fiduciaries.

Probate courts continue to report their caseloads by individual case type, but these individual case types have been combined into categories much like those in district and circuit court; detailed information is available in the Probate Court Statistical Supplements. The Supplements contain a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each probate court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

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Probate Court



Effective April 1, 2003, the following changes went into effect pursuant to P.A. 92 of 2002:

Alcona County moved from Region 4 to Region 3.

Roscommon County moved from Region 4 to Region 3.

*Probate Court Judges***P01 Alcona County**

Hon. James H. Cook

PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties

Hon. William W. Carmody

P03 Allegan County

Hon. Michael L. Buck

P04 Alpena County

Hon. Douglas A. Pugh

P05 Antrim County

Hon. Norman R. Hayes

P06 Arenac County

Hon. Jack William Scully

P07 Baraga County

Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

P08 Barry County

Hon. Richard H. Shaw

P09 Bay County

Hon. Karen Tighe

P10 Benzie County

Hon. Nancy A. Kida

P11 Berrien County

Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield

Hon. Thomas E. Nelson

P12 Branch County

Hon. Frederick L. Wood

P13 Calhoun County

Hon. Phillip E. Harter

Hon. Gary K. Reed

P14 Cass County

Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

P16 Cheboygan County

Hon. Robert John Butts

P17 Chippewa County

Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

P19 Clinton County

Hon. Marvin E. Robertson

P20 Crawford County

Hon. John G. Hunter

P21 Delta County

Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

P22 Dickinson CountyHon. John A. Torreano
(left the court 12/19/03^F)

Vacancy

P23 Eaton County

Hon. Michael E. Skinner

P25 Genesee CountyHon. Thomas L. Gadola
(left the court 9/27/03^F)

Hon. Allen J. Nelson

Hon. David J. Newblatt

(joined the court 2/19/04*)

Hon. Robert E. Weiss

P27 Gogebic County

Hon. Joel L. Massie

P28 Grand Traverse County

Hon. David L. Stowe

P29 Gratiot County

Hon. Jack T. Arnold

P30 Hillsdale County

Hon. Michael E. Nye

P31 Houghton CountyHon. Charles R. Goodman
(joined the court 12/1/03^E)

Hon. John A. Mikkola

(left the court 3/1/03^R)**P32 Huron County**

Hon. David L. Clabuesch

P33 Ingham County

Hon. R. George Economy

Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia

P34 Ionia County

Hon. Nannette M. Bowler

(joined the court 12/22/03*)

Hon. Gerald J. Supina

(left the court 9/22/03^R)**P35 Iosco County**

Hon. John D. Hamilton

P36 Iron County

Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

P37 Isabella County

Hon. William T. Ervin

P38 Jackson County

Hon. Susan E. Vandercook

P39 Kalamazoo County

Hon. Patricia N. Conlon

Hon. Donald R. Halstead

Hon. Carolyn H. Williams

P40 Kalkaska County

Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

P41 Kent County

Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter

Hon. Patricia D. Gardner

Hon. Janet A. Haynes

Hon. G. Patrick Hillary

P42 Keweenaw County

Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

P43 Lake County

Hon. Mark S. Wickens

P44 Lapeer County

Hon. Justus C. Scott

P45 Leelanau County

Hon. Joseph E. Deegan

P46 Lenawee County

Hon. Charles W. Jameson

P47 Livingston County

Hon. Susan L. Reck

PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties

Hon. Thomas B. North

P50 Macomb County

Hon. Kathryn A. George

(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

Hon. Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan

Hon. Tracey A. Yokich

(joined the court 7/14/03*)

P51 Manistee County

Hon. John R. DeVries

P52 Marquette County

Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

P53 Mason County

Hon. Mark D. Raven

PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties

Hon. LaVail E. Hull

P55 Menominee County

Hon. William A. Hupy

P56 Midland County

Hon. Dorene S. Allen

P57 Missaukee County

Hon. Charles R. Parsons

P58 Monroe County

Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.

Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

P59 Montcalm County

Hon. Edward L. Skinner

P60 Montmorency County

Hon. Michael G. Mack

(joined the court 11/10/03^E)

Hon. Robert P. M. Nordstrom

(left the court 6/27/03^R)**P61 Muskegon County**

Hon. Neil G. Mullally

Hon. Gregory Christopher
Pittman**P62 Newaygo County**

Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

P63 Oakland County

Hon. Barry M. Grant

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark

Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore

Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti

P64 Oceana County

Hon. Walter A. Urick

P65 Ogemaw County

Hon. Eugene I. Turkelson

P66 Ontonagon County

Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik

P68 Oscoda County

Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

P69 Otsego County

Hon. Michael K. Cooper

P70 Ottawa County

Hon. Mark A. Feyen

P71 Presque Isle County

Hon. Kenneth A. Radzibon

P72 Roscommon County

Hon. Douglas C. Dossan

P73 Saginaw County

Hon. Faye M. Harrison

Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

P74 St. Clair County

Hon. Elwood L. Brown

Hon. John R. Monaghan

P75 St. Joseph County

Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

P76 Sanilac County

Hon. R. Terry Maltby

P78 Shiawassee County

Hon. James R. Clatterbaugh

P79 Tuscola County

Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr.

P80 Van Buren County

Hon. Frank D. Willis

P81 Washtenaw County

Hon. Nancy Cornelia Francis

Hon. John N. Kirkendall

P82 Wayne County

Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher

Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr.

Hon. Patricia B. Campbell

Hon. James E. Lacey

Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.

Hon. Cathie B. Maher

Hon. Martin T. Maher

Hon. Frances Pitts

Hon. David J. Szymanski

P83 Wexford County

Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma

KEY* Appointed to succeed
another judge

E Newly elected to this court

F Deceased

R Retired

continued from page 35

The 2002 and 2003 data includes more detail about the number of petitions being filed. As a result, the 2002 and 2003 reports provide more information about adult guardianships and conservatorships as compared to minor guardianships and conservatorships and new types of cases that were created by the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (effective April 2000).

Before 2002, probate courts reported only the number of new filings and the number of active cases. Under the new caseload reporting system, probate courts began reporting reopened cases and the dispositions associated with new filings and reopened cases. This change led to greater consistency in reporting among the trial courts. As with circuit and district courts, probate courts now report dispositions in cases that have been adjudicated. In many probate court cases, adjudication occurs relatively early in the life of the case. Once the case is adjudicated, however, it may remain active for years while the court continues to monitor it. Therefore, in addition to reporting filings, the probate courts provide the number of active estate and trust cases and the number of individuals who have a guardian or conservator. These numbers give a more complete picture of the probate courts' total caseload in a given year. Probate courts also reported the number of estate cases for which they provided supervised administration during the year, furnishing additional information about the probate courts' workload.

The reporting changes can make it difficult to compare 2002 and 2003 data with data for previous years; however, comparing the number of open (active) cases in 2002 and 2003 with open cases for previous years provides some information about caseload trends. These reporting changes provide a more precise view of case processing by separating the pending caseload from the active caseload.

For details about comparisons of 2003 data with previous years' data, see the charts that follow.

Probate Court Estate and Trust Filings and Dispositions

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Supervised Administration	5,985	2,269	644	665	672
Unsupervised Administration	14,831	16,453	18,625	18,448	18,130
Small Estates*	7,972	7,568	7,656	7,401	6,897
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts Testamentary	747	825	788	920	916
Determination of Heirs	23	50	43	24	20
Total Filings	29,558	27,165	27,756	27,458	26,635

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Supervised Administration	NA	NA	NA	696	707
Unsupervised Administration	NA	NA	NA	18,470	18,175
Small Estates	NA	NA	NA	7,430	6,973
Trusts Inter Vivos and Trusts Testamentary	NA	NA	NA	604	739
Determination of Heirs	NA	NA	NA	18	14
Total Dispositions	32,103	NA	NA	27,218	26,608

*Before 2001, Small Estates were referred to as Assignment of Property.

Probate Court Trust Registrations and Wills

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Trust Registrations and Wills*	11,781	9,826	8,982	13,211	13,195

*Prior to 2002, these included trust registrations and wills filed for safekeeping. In 2002, wills delivered after the death of the testator were included as well.

In 1998, the Legislature enacted the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC), effective April 1, 2000. Under EPIC, the number of estates requesting supervised administration has decreased significantly. The amount of work associated with trusts has also decreased. Between 2001 and 2003, an average of 660 estates per year requested supervised administration in the initial petition. By contrast, the number of estates requesting unsupervised administration in the initial petition has increased to an average of 18,401 per year for the same period.

In addition to new filings, the probate courts' active pending caseload is used to assess the courts' judicial and administrative workload. Of the 38,091 active estates and trusts at the end of 2003, 5,224 were supervised at some point during 2003. In 672 of these estates, supervision was requested when the case was filed. Probate courts also conducted follow-up procedures associated with the administration of these open estates.

In 2003, the courts reported 13,041 wills for safekeeping and wills delivered after the death of the testator. The courts also reported 154 trusts registrations.

The number of petitions filed for guardianships and conservatorships has steadily decreased over the past five years. This trend may be due, in part, to recent changes in law and efforts to educate petitioners about alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship. The number of petitions for adult and minor guardianships decreased by an average of 3.5 percent per year between 1999 and 2003. The number of petitions for adult and minor conservatorships decreased by an average of 5.1 percent per year. The number of petitions filed for protective orders decreased every year since 2001.

As of the end of 2003, there were 30,909 adults who had a full or limited guardian and 18,989 developmentally disabled persons with a guardian. There were 33,597 minors with a guardian. Also as of the end of 2003, there were 16,582 adults and 16,665 minors with a conservator.

Probate Court Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Protective Proceeding Filings and Dispositions

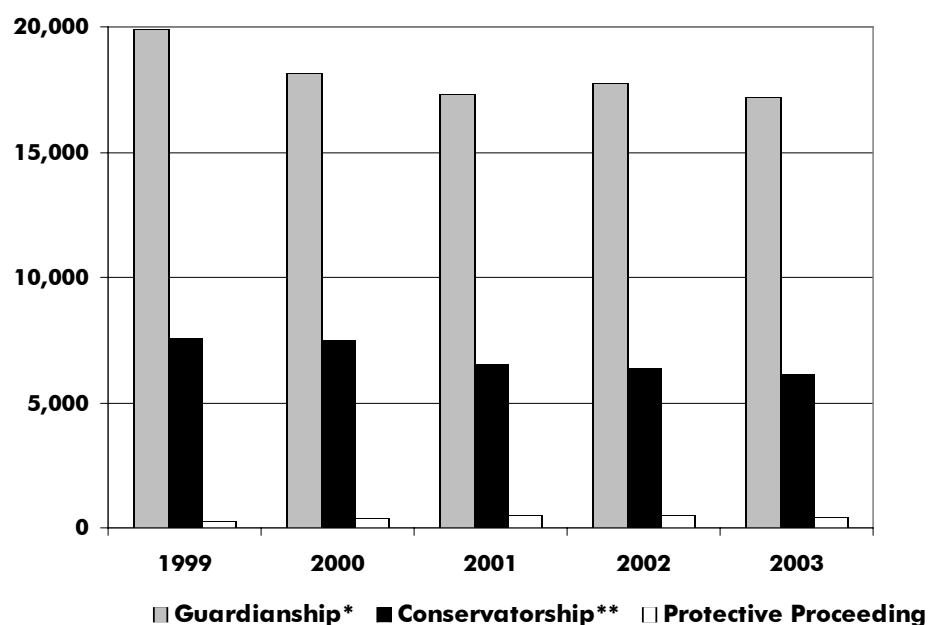
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Guardianships*	19,856	18,166	17,301	17,704	17,176
Conservatorships**	7,532	7,492	6,552	6,375	6,084
Protective Proceedings	249	381	478	465	425
Total Filings	27,637	26,039	24,331	24,544	23,685

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Guardianships*	NA	NA	NA	16,970	17,521
Conservatorships**	NA	NA	NA	5,930	5,744
Protective Proceedings	NA	NA	NA	358	380
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	23,258	23,645

*Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships.

**Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.

Probate Court Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Protective Proceeding Petitions Filed



Probate Court Mental Health Filings and Dispositions

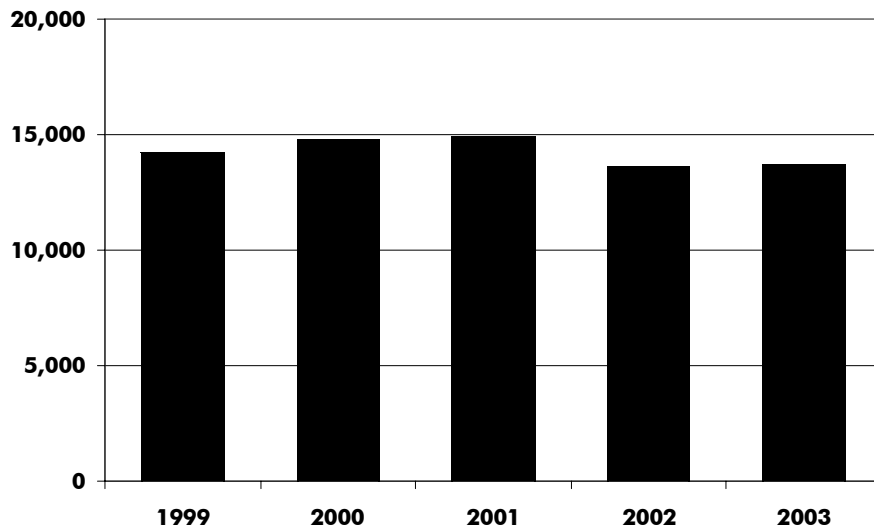
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Mental Health	14,227	14,819	14,914	13,660	13,707
Judicial Admission	38	57	85	96	74
Total Filings	14,265	14,876	14,999	13,756	13,781

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Mental Health	NA	NA	NA	12,753	13,136
Judicial Admission	NA	NA	NA	61	46
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	12,814	13,182

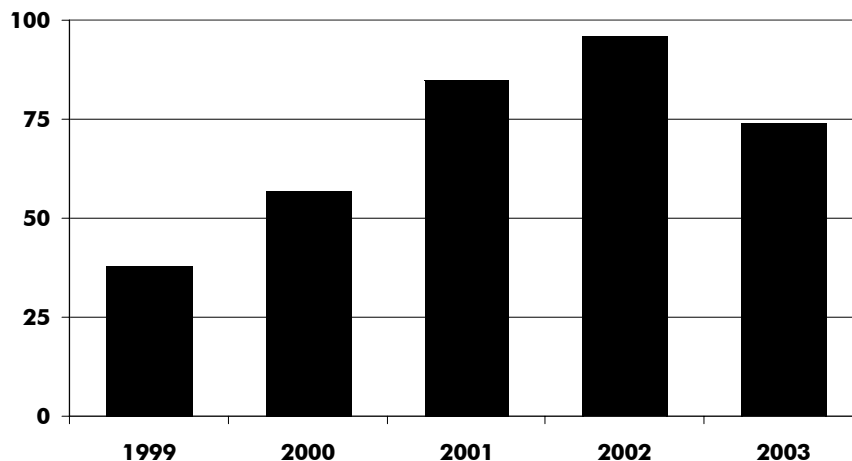
Between 1999 and 2003, the number of petitions filed seeking commitment for mental illness decreased by an average of 0.8 percent per year. In 2003, in addition to petitions for new commitments, probate courts received 530 petitions for a second order and 1,463 petitions for a continuing order of commitment. The courts granted 529 petitions for a second order and 1,248 petitions for a continuing order.

The total number of supplemental petitions presented to the court for court-ordered examination on an application for hospitalization and the total number of petitions presented to the court for court-ordered transportation of a minor totaled 3,148.

Probate Court Mental Health Petitions Filed



Probate Court Judicial Admission Petitions Filed



Civil actions filed in the probate courts have increased each year since 1999 by an average of 7.0 percent per year. In 2003, there were 479 filings for miscellaneous matters, including petitions seeking judicial decisions regarding death by accident or disaster, kidney transplants, review of drain commission proceedings, review of mental health financial liability, secret marriages, etc. Before 2002, these matters were not reported or they were reported separately.

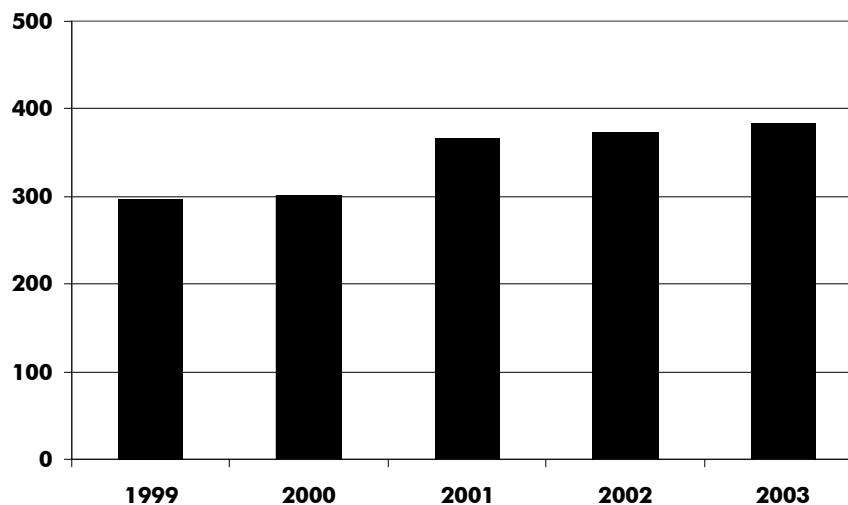
Probate Court Civil and Miscellaneous Filings and Dispositions

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Civil	296	302	367	374	384
Miscellaneous*	NA	NA	NA	533	479
Total Filings	296	302	367	907	863

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Civil	149	NA	NA	389	260
Miscellaneous*	NA	NA	NA	471	409
Total Dispositions	149	NA	NA	860	669

*Miscellaneous includes death by accident/disaster, filings of letters by foreign personal representative, kidney transplants, review of drain commissioner, review of mental health financial liability, etc.

Probate Court Civil Cases Filed



DISTRICT COURT

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” partly because citizens have more contact with the district court than any other court in the state, and also because many citizens go to district court without an attorney. The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court small claims division handles cases up to \$3,000. In these cases, the litigants waive their right to a jury and attorney representation. They also waive rules of evidence, and any right to appeal the district judge's decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the general civil division of the court where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the case may be appealed to the district judge.

Civil infractions are offenses formerly considered criminal, but decriminalized by statute or local ordinance, with no jail penalty associated with the offense. The most common civil infractions are minor traffic matters, such as speeding, failure to stop or yield, careless driving, and equipment and parking violations. Some other violations in state law or local ordinance may be decriminalized, such as land-use rules enforced by the Department of Natural Resources and blight or junk violations. No jury trial is allowed on a civil infraction, and the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence instead of beyond a reasonable doubt. Most of these cases are handled in an informal hearing before a district court magistrate, although by request or on appeal the case will be heard by a judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors where the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In these cases, the court conducts the initial arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. Extradition to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants are also typically handled in district court. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who are likely to go to jail if convicted and who cannot afford legal counsel.

District court judges may allow clerks to accept admissions of responsibility to civil infractions, guilty pleas to certain misdemeanor violations, and payments to satisfy judgments. For little or no cost, clerks have a variety of district court forms for the public. Clerks may not give parties legal advice. Many citizens interact most frequently with clerical staff, particularly on traffic civil infractions when no hearing is requested. Clerical staff are required by law to provide information to various state agencies, such as the Department of State on motor vehicle violations and the Department of State Police on criminal convictions.

Most district courts have a probation department to follow up with persons who are on probation for an offense. A judge can order a defendant to fulfill various conditions, including fines, classes, and treatment or counseling. With some exceptions, probation cannot exceed two years.

District judges have statutory authority to appoint a district court magistrate. Magistrates may issue search warrants and arrest warrants when authorized by the county prosecutor or municipal attorney. They may also arraign and set bail, accept guilty pleas to some offenses, and sentence on most traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations, as well as on dog, game, and marine violations. If the district court magistrate is an attorney licensed in Michigan, the magistrate may hear small claims cases. At the direction of the chief judge, the magistrate may also perform other duties as specified in state law.

District judges are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for six-year terms, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

NEW CASELOAD REPORTING SYSTEM

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. The creation of the circuit court family division prompted this change; in addition, SCAO sought greater uniformity in reporting among the three trial court jurisdictions. The new reporting system was implemented on January 1, 2002. Because this is a relatively recent change, this 2003 Annual Report will discuss the key features of the new reporting system.

Highlights of the New System

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office made significant changes in the way district courts report caseload statistics. These changes must be understood in comparing 2002 and 2003 statistics with those of previous years.

For district courts, the number of case types reported increased from 13 to 21. These changes allow the courts to distinguish, for example, between non-traffic

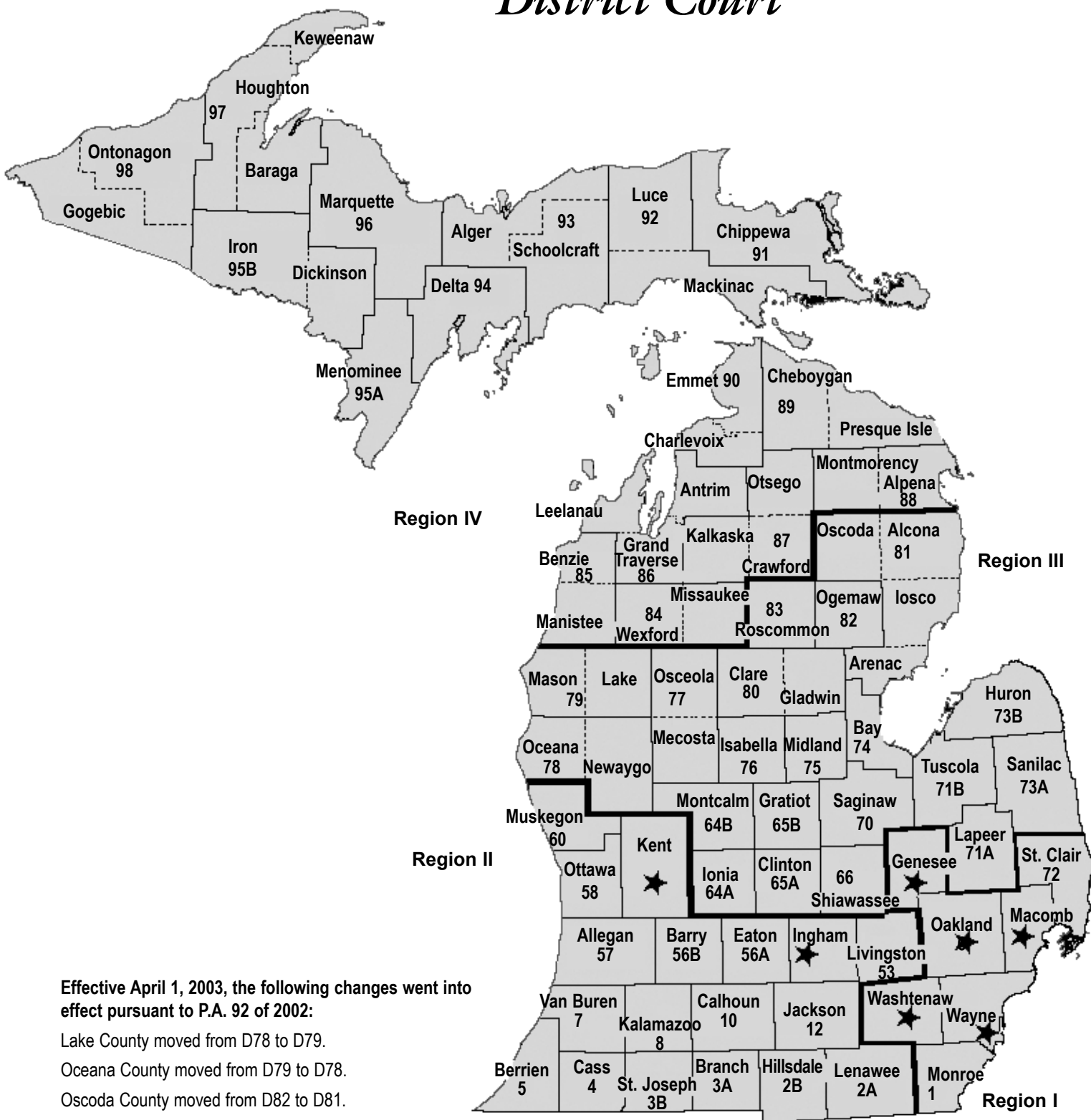
misdemeanor offenses and civil infractions, between traffic civil infractions and misdemeanors, and between felony traffic and non-traffic offenses. A new case classification for extradition, detainer, and fugitive cases allows these matters to be separately identified. A new civil code allows the courts to differentiate between cases filed with and without a money claim.

Before 2002, the district court caseload was reported under the broad categories of felony, misdemeanor, non-traffic civil infraction, traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions, traffic alcohol offenses, general civil, small claims, summary proceedings, and parking. Now the cases are reported by individual case type. The individual case types have been combined to allow comparison to previous years. Detailed information is available in the District Court Statistical Supplements. The Supplements contain both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each district court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

District court statistics for 2002 and 2003 show a smaller number of pending cases. This number reflects the temporary disposition of cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, as is the case with circuit court reporting. For example, criminal and traffic cases without disposition in warrant status are no longer considered pending. The same is true for civil cases that are stayed by bankruptcy proceedings. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur, such as arraignment on the warrant. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria for measurement are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, the new system provides a more precise pending caseload, and an accurate measure of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them.

Before comparing 2002 and 2003 dispositions to numbers for previous years, one must subtract cases disposed as inactive.

District Court



★ See detail map.

Effective April 1, 2003, the following changes went into effect pursuant to P.A. 92 of 2002:

Lake County moved from D78 to D79.

Oceana County moved from D79 to D78.

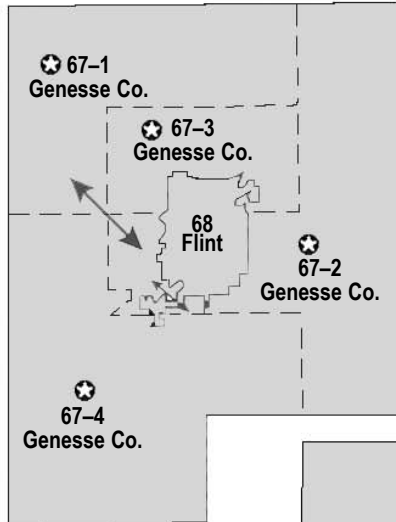
Oscoda County moved from D82 to D81.

Alcona County moved from D82 to D81.

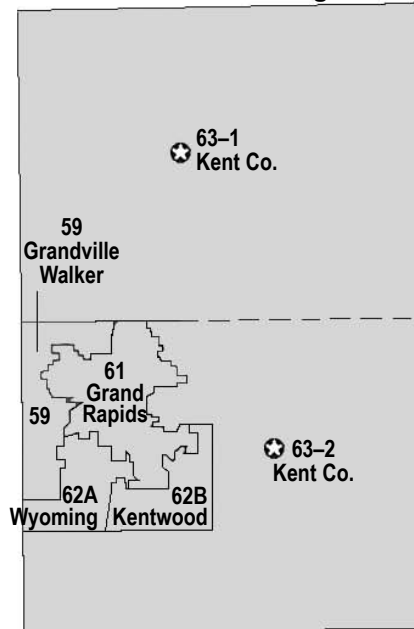
Crawford County moved from D83 to D87.

2nd & 3rd Class District Court Detail Map

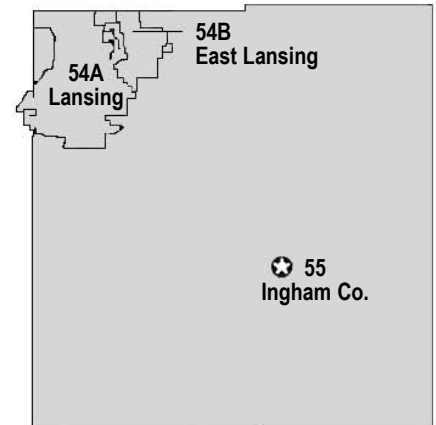
Genesee 2 Courts 12 Judges



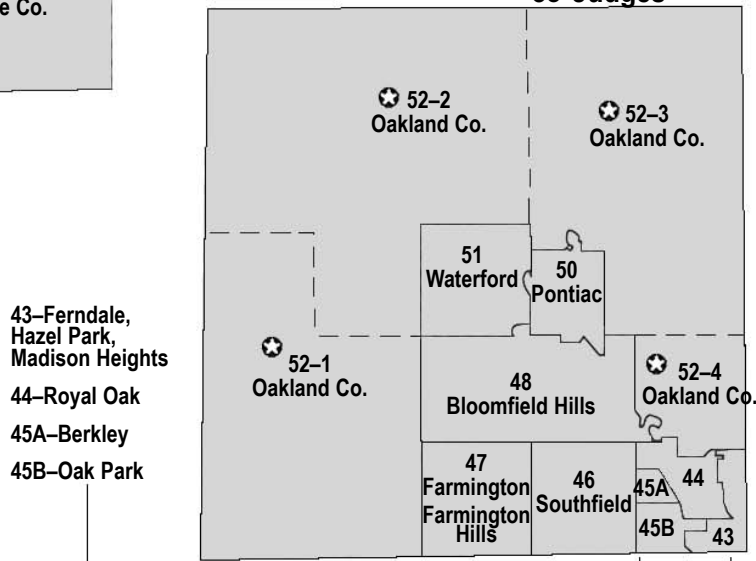
Kent 5 Courts 12 Judges



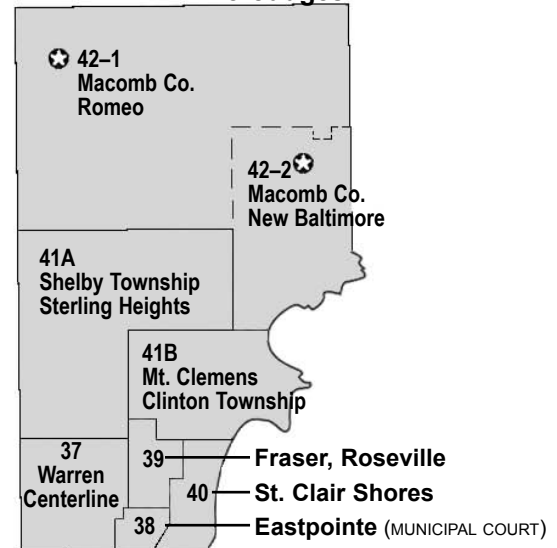
Ingham 3 Courts 9 Judges



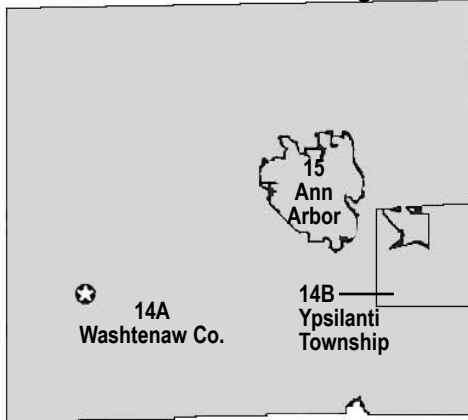
Oakland 10 Courts 33 Judges



Macomb 6 Courts 18 Judges



Washtenaw 3 Courts 7 Judges



Wayne 23 Courts 65 Judges



★ Second Class District, all others are Third Class Districts

District Court Judges

- D01**
Hon. Mark S. Braunlich
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson
Hon. Jack Vitale
- D02A**
Hon. Natalia M. Koselka
Hon. James E. Sheridan
- D02B**
Hon. Donald L. Sanderson
- D03A**
Hon. David T. Coyle
- D03B**
Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. William D. Welty
- D04**
Hon. Paul E. Deats
- D05**
Hon. Gary J. Bruce
Hon. Angela Pasula
Hon. Scott Schofield
Hon. Lynda A. Tolen
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley
- D07**
Hon. Arthur H. Clarke III
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel
- D08-1**
Hon. Quinn E. Benson
Hon. Ann L. Hannon
Hon. Carol A. Husum
- D08-2**
Hon. Robert C. Kropf
- D08-3**
Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine
Hon. Richard A. Santoni
Hon. Vincent C. Westra
- D10**
Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.
Hon. John R. Holmes
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.
Hon. Marvin Ratner
- D12**
Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.
Hon. Lysle G. Hall
Hon. James M. Justin
Hon. R. Darryl Mazur
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D14A**
Hon. Richard E. Conlin
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey
- D14B**
Hon. John B. Collins
- D15**
Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Ann E. Mattson
- D16**
Hon. Robert B. Brzezinski
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann
- D17**
Hon. Karen Khalil
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth
- D18**
Hon. C. Charles Bokus
Hon. Gail McKnight
- D19**
Hon. William C. Hultgren
Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka
Hon. Mark W. Somers
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D20**
Hon. Leo K. Foran
Hon. Mark J. Plawecki
- D21**
Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.
- D22**
Hon. Sylvia A. James
- D23**
Hon. Geno Salomone
Hon. William J. Sutherland
- D24**
Hon. John T. Courtright
Hon. Anthony S. Guerriero
(joined the court 9/15/03*)
Hon. Gerard Trudel
(left the court 2/28/03^R)
- D25**
Hon. David A. Bajorek
Hon. Joseph H. DeLaurentiis
(left the court 9/2/03^R)
Vacancy
- D26-1**
Hon. Raymond A. Charron
- D26-2**
Hon. Michael F. Ciungan
- D27**
Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach
- D28**
Hon. James A. Kandrevas
- D29**
Hon. Carolyn A. Archbold
(left the court 11/1/03^R)
- D29 (continued)**
Hon. Laura R. Mack
(joined the court 1/12/04*)
- D30**
Hon. L. Kim Smith
(left the court 3/31/03^A)
Hon. Brigitte R. Officer
(joined the court 7/31/03*)
- D31**
Hon. Paul J. Paruk
- D32A**
Hon. Roger J. La Rose
- D33**
Hon. James Kurt Kersten
Hon. Michael K. McNally
Hon. Donald L. Swank
- D34**
Hon. Tina Brooks Green
Hon. Brian A. Oakley
Hon. David M. Parrott
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D35**
Hon. Michael J. Gerou
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
Hon. John E. MacDonald
- D36**
Hon. Deborah Ross Adams
Hon. Lydia Nance Adams
Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer
Hon. Marilyn E. Atkins
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount
Hon. David Martin Bradfield
Hon. Izetta F. Bright
Hon. Donald Coleman
Hon. Theresa Doss
(left the court 10/1/03^R)
Hon. Nancy A. Farmer
Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett
Hon. Jimmylee Gray
Hon. Beverley J. Hayes-Sipes
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Paula G. Humphries
Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson
Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley
Hon. Deborah L. Langston
Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.
Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd
Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark
Hon. Wade H. McCree
Hon. Donna R. Milhouse
Hon. B. Pennie Millender
(joined the court 12/17/03*)
Hon. Marion A. Moore
Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-Owens
Hon. John R. Perry
Hon. Mark A. Randon
Hon. Kevin F. Robbins
Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.
- D36 (continued)**
Hon. C. Lorene Royster
Hon. Ted Wallace
- D37**
Hon. John M. Chmura
Hon. Jennifer Faunce
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg
Hon. Walter A. Jakubowski Jr.
- D39**
Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker
Hon. Marco A. Santia
Hon. Catherine B. Steenland
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D40**
Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster
- D41A**
Hon. Kenneth J. Kosnic
(left the court 1/3/03^R)
Hon. Michael S. Maceroni
Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski
Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegard
(joined the court 10/15/03^E)
- D41B**
Hon. William H. Cannon
Hon. Linda Davis
Hon. John C. Foster
- D42-1**
Hon. Denis R. LeDuc
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D42-2**
Hon. Paul Cassidy
- D43**
Hon. Keith P. Hunt
Hon. Joseph Longo
Hon. Robert J. Turner
- D44**
Hon. Terrence H. Brennan
Hon. Daniel Sawicki
- D45A**
Hon. William R. Sauer
- D45B**
Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. David M. Gubow
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
- D46**
Hon. Stephen C. Cooper
Hon. Sheila R. Johnson
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev
- D47**
Hon. James Brady
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Marla E. Parker
- D48**
Hon. Edward Avadenka

KEY

- * Appointed to succeed another judge
- A Appointed to another position
- E Newly elected to this court
- F Deceased
- R Retired
- S Resigned

*District Court Judges***D48** *(continued)*

Hon. Diane D'Agostini
Hon. Kimberly Small

D50

Hon. Leo Bowman
Hon. Christopher C. Brown
Hon. Preston G. Thomas
Hon. Cynthia T. Walker
(joined the court 10/1/03*)
Hon. William Waterman
(left the court 4/27/03^F)

D51

Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

D52-1

Hon. Michael Batchik
Hon. Robert Bondy
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

D52-2

Hon. Dana Fortinberry
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D52-3

Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson

D52-4

Hon. William E. Bolle
Hon. Dennis C. Drury
Hon. Michael A. Martone

D53

Hon. Frank R. Del Vero
Hon. Michael K. Hegarty
Hon. A. John Pikkarainen

D54A

Hon. Louise Alderson
Hon. Patrick F. Cherry
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca
Hon. Charles F. Filice
Hon. Amy R. Krause
(joined the court 3/25/03*)

D54B

Hon. Richard D. Ball
Hon. David L. Jordon

D55

Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.
Hon. Pamela J. McCabe

D56A

Hon. Paul F. Berger
Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman

D56B

Hon. Gary R. Holman

D57

Hon. Stephen E. Sheridan
Hon. Gary A. Stewart

D58

Hon. Susan A. Jonas
Hon. Richard J. Kloote
Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

D59

Hon. Peter P. Versluis

D60

Hon. Harold F. Closz III
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)
Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

D61

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler
Hon. David J. Buter
Hon. J. Michael Christensen
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVille
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II
Hon. Donald H. Passenger

D62A

Hon. M. Scott Bowen
(joined the court 8/11/03*)
Hon. Jack R. Jelsema
(left the court 2/28/03^S)
Hon. Steven M. Timmers

D62B

Hon. William G. Kelly

D63-1

Hon. Steven R. Servaas

D63-2

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

D64A

Hon. Raymond P. Voet

D64B

Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

D65A

Hon. Richard D. Wells

D65B

Hon. James B. Mackie

D66

Hon. Ward L. Clarkson
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

D67-1

Hon. David J. Goggins
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D67-2

Hon. John L. Conover
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

D67-3

Hon. Larry Stecco

D67-4

Hon. Mark C. McCabe
Hon. Christopher Odette

D68

Hon. Peter Anastor
(left the court 1/31/04^R)

D68 *(continued)*

Hon. William H. Crawford, II
Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
Hon. Michael D. McAra
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III
Hon. Ramona M. Roberts

D70-1

Hon. Terry L. Clark
Hon. M. Randall Jurrens
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

D70-2

Hon. Christopher S. Boyd
Hon. Darnell Jackson
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

D71A

Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard
Hon. John T. Connolly

D71B

Hon. Kim David Glaspie

D72

Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
Hon. David C. Nicholson
Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D73A

Hon. James A. Marcus

D73B

Hon. Karl E. Kraus

D74

Hon. Craig D. Alston
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

D75

Hon. John Henry Hart
Hon. Philip M. Van Dam

D76

Hon. William R. Rush

D77

Hon. Susan H. Grant

D78

Hon. H. Kevin Drake

D79

Hon. Peter J. Wadel
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D80

Hon. Gary J. Allen

D81

Hon. Allen C. Yenior

D82

Hon. Richard E. Noble

D83

Hon. Daniel L. Sutton
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D84

Hon. David A. Hogg

D85

Hon. Brent V. Danielson

D86

Hon. Thomas S. Gilbert
Hon. Michael J. Haley
Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

D87

Hon. Patricia A. Morse

D88

Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

D89

Hon. Harold A. Johnson, Jr.

D90

Hon. Richard W. May

D91

Hon. Michael W. MacDonald

D92

Hon. Barbara J. Brown
(joined the court 1/5/04*)
Hon. Steven E. Ford
(left the court 10/31/03^S)

D93

Hon. Mark E. Luoma

D94

Hon. Glen A. Pearson
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D95A

Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow
Hon. Barbara J. Brown
(joined the court 1/5/04^E)

D95B

Hon. Michael J. Kusz

D96

Hon. Dennis H. Girard
Hon. Roger W. Kangas
(joined the court 1/1/03^E)

D97

Hon. Phillip L. Kukkonen

D98

Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

In 2003, 336,827 misdemeanor criminal cases (either ordinance or statute violations) were filed in district court. Between 1999 and 2003, filings of misdemeanor criminal cases increased by an average of 6.3 percent per year. In 2003, district courts resolved 291,309 misdemeanor criminal cases.

In 2003, 78,121 felony traffic, felony criminal, and extradition/detainer cases were filed in district court. District courts disposed of 79,911 felony traffic, felony criminal, and extradition/ detainer cases.

Non-traffic civil infractions totaled 43,798, an increase of 35.1 percent from 2002. Between 1999 and 2003, filings of non-traffic civil infractions increased by an average of 30.4 percent per year. The district courts disposed of 42,105 non-traffic civil infractions.

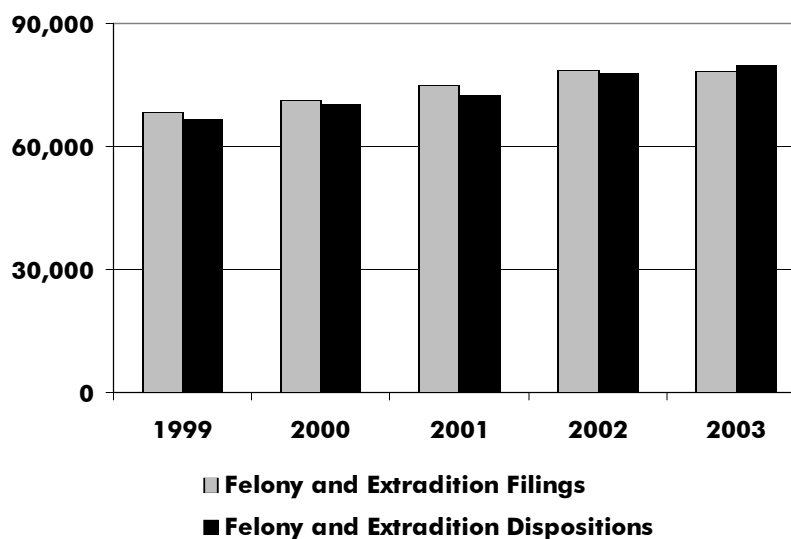
District Court Non-Traffic Filings and Dispositions

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Felony and Extradition*	68,327	71,356	74,991	78,772	78,121
Misdemeanor	266,245	312,788	333,264	319,721	336,827
Civil Infractions	15,300	17,649	24,644	32,428	43,798
Total Filings	349,872	401,793	432,899	430,921	458,746

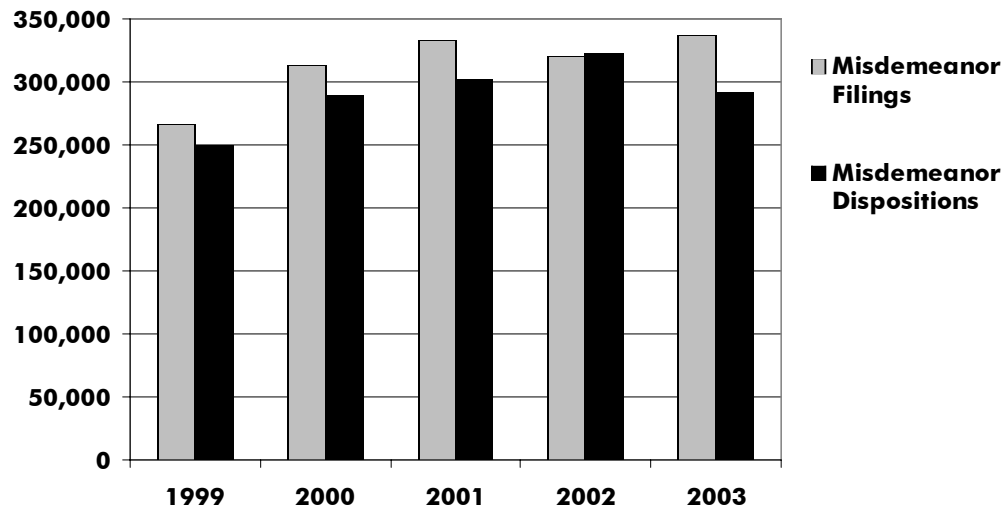
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Felony and Extradition	66,557	70,236	72,513	78,061	79,911
Misdemeanor	250,145	289,701	302,148	323,163	291,309
Civil Infractions	14,919	17,245	22,692	33,784	42,105
Total Dispositions	331,621	377,182	397,353	435,008	413,325

*Beginning in 2002, extradition cases were counted separately from felony filings.

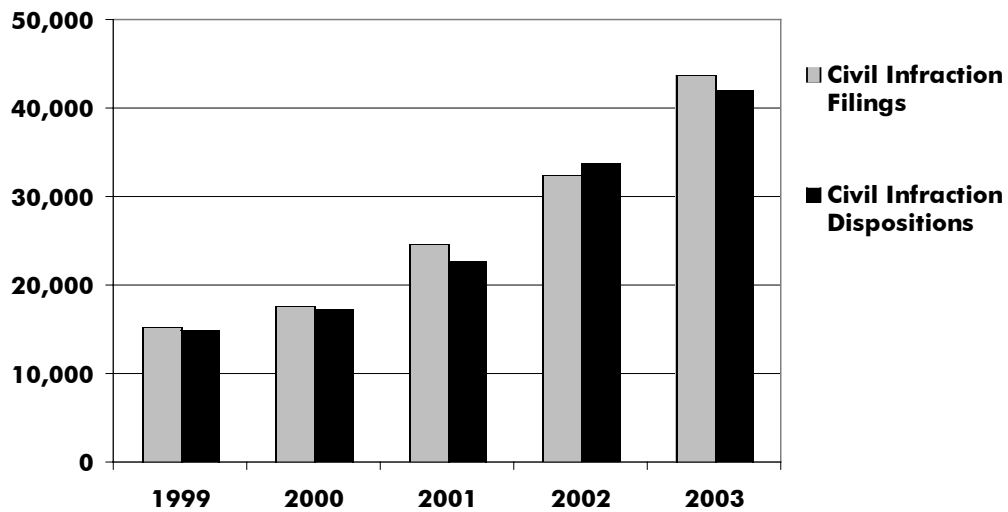
District Court Non-Traffic Felony Cases Filed and Disposed



**District Court Non-Traffic Misdemeanor
Cases Filed and Disposed**



**District Court Non-Traffic Civil Infraction Cases
Filed and Disposed**



Civil traffic infractions increased by 0.2 percent over 2002, for a total of 1,742,497. Until 2003, filings of civil traffic infractions declined at an average rate of 2.4 percent per year since 1999.

In 2003, 435,042 misdemeanor traffic cases were filed in district court, 0.4 percent fewer than in 2002. Since 1999, filings of misdemeanor traffic cases decreased at an average of 4.0 percent per year.

District courts disposed of 2,193,611 civil traffic and misdemeanor traffic infractions.

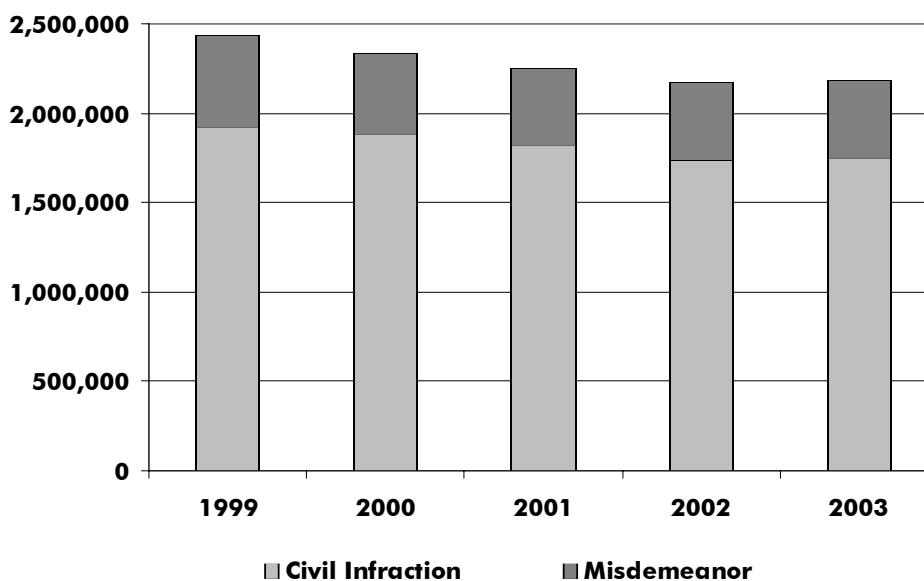
Drunk driving cases (OWI) filed in district court decreased by an average of 2.2 percent per year between 1999 and 2003. Of the 59,788 drunk driving cases filed in 2003, 7.3 percent were felony cases. The remaining 92.6 percent were misdemeanor cases. District courts disposed of 58,939 drunk driving cases in 2003.

District Court Traffic Filings and Dispositions

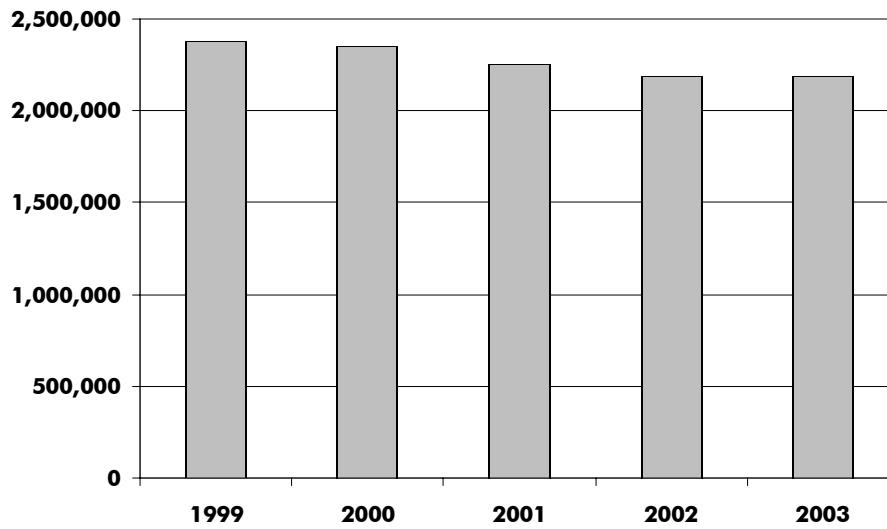
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Misdemeanor	516,146	454,974	431,459	437,003	435,042
Civil Infraction	1,919,164	1,876,729	1,820,155	1,738,622	1,742,497
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	65,466	63,687	60,795	60,572	59,788
Total Filings	2,500,776	2,395,390	2,312,409	2,236,197	2,237,327

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction	2,380,172	2,355,175	2,258,267	2,190,761	2,193,611
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	62,192	61,841	60,751	60,879	58,939
Total Dispositions	2,442,364	2,417,016	2,319,018	2,251,640	2,252,550

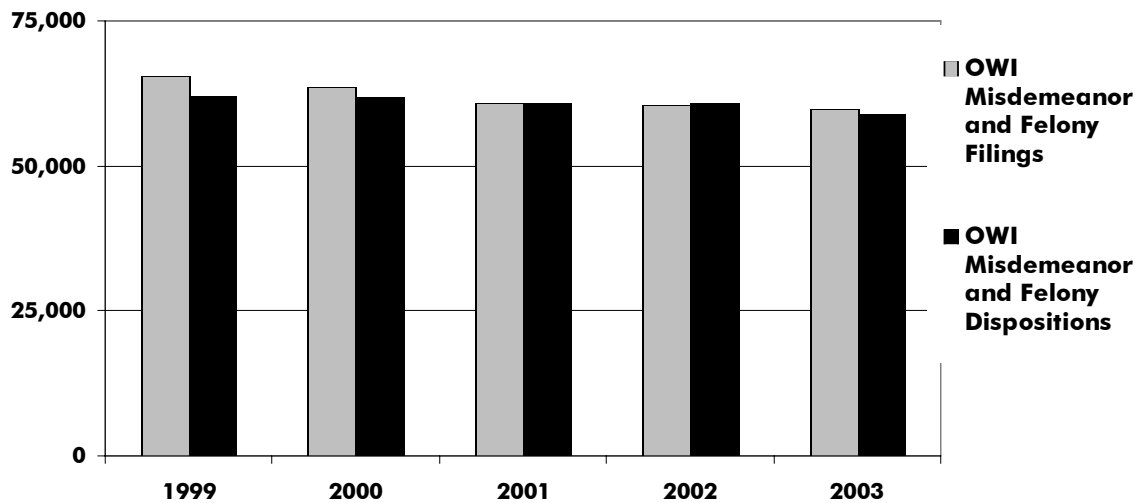
District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction Cases Filed



**District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil
Infraction Cases Disposed**



District Court OWI Cases Filed and Disposed



Between 1999 and 2003, general civil cases filed in district court increased by an average of 14.3 percent per year; dispositions in general civil cases increased by an average of 13.0 percent per year. A total of 298,802 general civil cases were filed in district courts; the courts disposed of 283,576 cases.

Small claims cases also increased between 1999 and 2003 by an average of 3.3 percent more filings and 3.8 percent more dispositions per year.

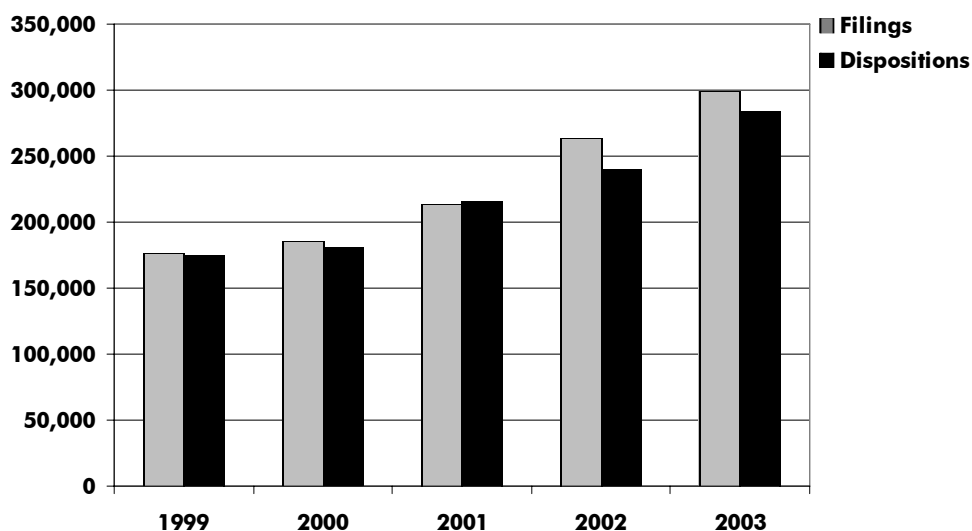
Summary proceedings filings increased by 4.7 percent per year and dispositions by 3.3 percent per year.

District Court Civil Filings and Dispositions

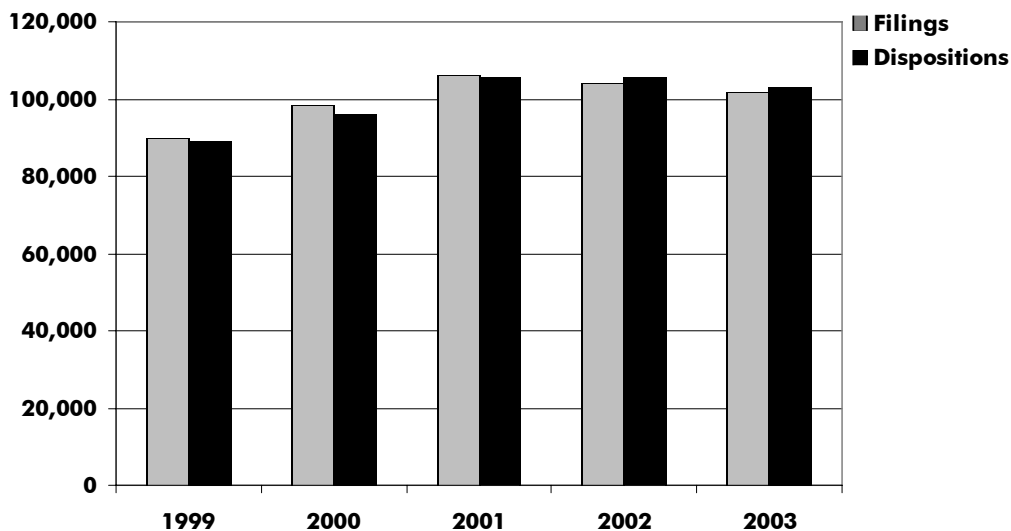
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
General Civil	176,413	185,710	213,486	264,061	298,802
Small Claims	89,842	98,173	105,971	104,208	101,680
Summary Proceedings	181,565	183,480	198,861	206,276	217,596
Total Filings	447,820	467,363	518,318	574,545	618,078

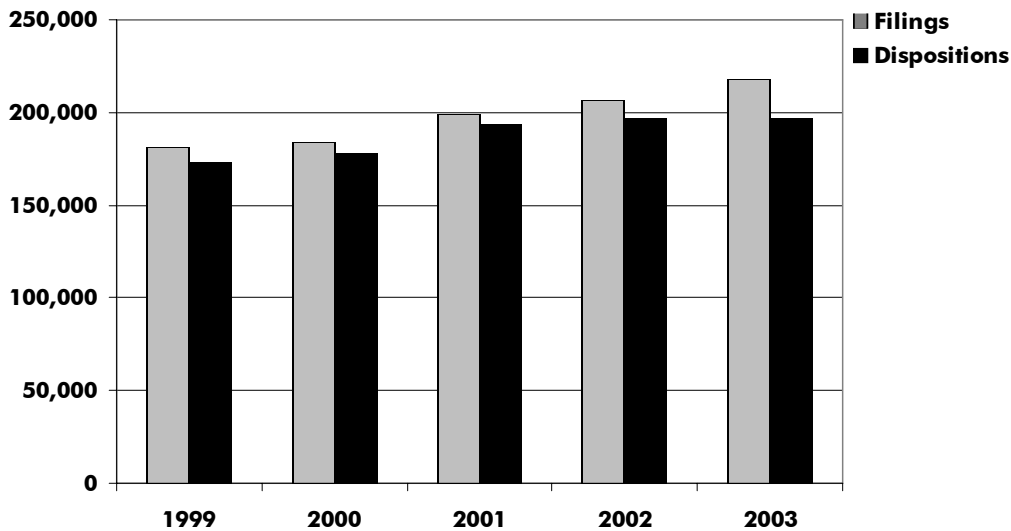
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
General Civil	175,349	180,291	215,466	239,577	283,576
Small Claims	88,804	96,020	105,601	105,711	103,089
Summary Proceedings	172,925	177,773	193,487	196,504	196,323
Total Dispositions	437,078	454,084	514,554	541,792	582,988

District Court General Civil Cases Filed and Disposed

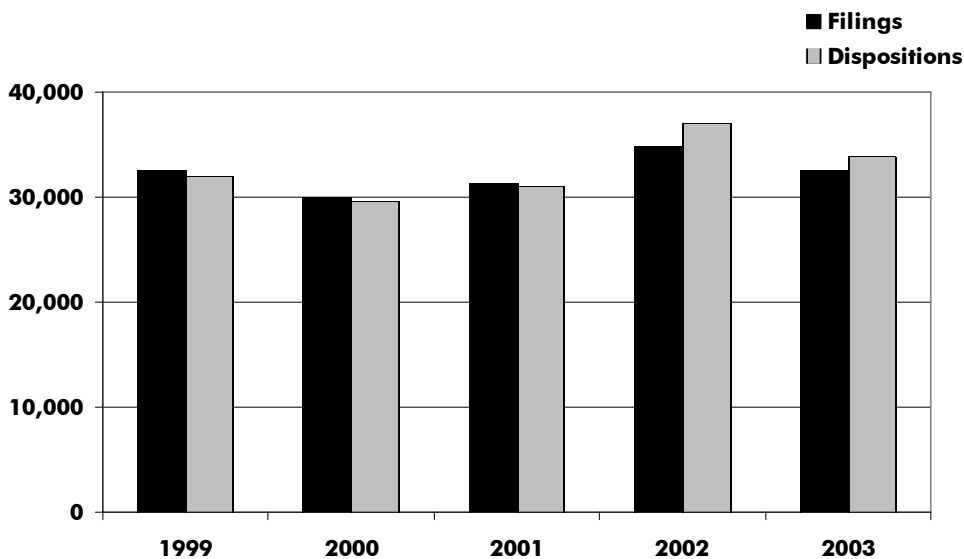


District Court Small Claims Cases Filed and Disposed



District Court Summary Proceeding Cases Filed and Disposed**Municipal Court Filings and Dispositions**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Filings	32,537	30,027	31,232	34,846	32,533
Dispositions	32,032	29,537	31,066	37,012	33,905

Municipal Court Filings and Dispositions***Municipal Court Judges*****MEP (Eastpointe)**

Hon. Norene S. Redmond

Hon. Martin J. Smith

MGP (Grosse Pointe)

Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

MGPF (Grosse Pointe Farms)

Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

MGPP (Grosse Pointe Park)

Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

MGPW (Grosse Pointe Woods)

Hon. Lynne A. Pierce

In 2003, filings in municipal court (less parking cases) totaled 32,533, a decrease of 6.6 percent from 2002. In 2003, dispositions in municipal court (less parking cases) totaled 33,905, a decrease of 8.4 percent from 2002.

Number of Trial Court Judgeships in Michigan

	Circuit Court	Probate Court	District Court	Municipal Court	Total
Region 1	112	25	143	4	284
Region 2	55	27	66	NA	148
Region 3	29	26	30	NA	85
Region 4	20	28	19	NA	67
Statewide	216	106	258	4	584

Circuit Court

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
C01	2	1	C38	1	3
C02	2	4	C39	2	2
C03	1	63	C40	3	2
C04	2	4	C41	4	2
C05	2	1	C42	3	2
C06	1	19	C43	2	1
C07	1	8	C44	2	2
C08	3	2	C45	2	1
C09	2	5	C46	4	2
C10	3	5	C47	4	1
C11	4	1	C48	2	2
C12	4	1	C49	3	1
C13	4	2	C50	4	1
C14	2	4	C51	3	1
C15	2	1	C52	3	1
C16	1	11	C53	4	1
C17	2	9	C54	3	1
C18	3	3	C55	3	1
C19	4	1	C56	2	2
C20	2	3	C57	4	1
C21	3	1			
C22	1	5			
C23	3	2			
C24	3	1			
C25	4	2			
C26	4	2			
C27	3	2			
C28	4	1			
C29	3	2			
C30	2	7			
C31	1	3			
C32	4	1			
C33	4	1			
C34	3	1			
C35	3	1			
C36	2	2			
C37	2	4			

District Court

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
D01	1	3	D54B	2	2
D02A	2	2	D55	2	2
D02B	2	1	D56A	2	2
D03A	2	1	D56B	2	1
D03B	2	2	D57	2	2
D04	2	1	D58	2	4
D05	2	5	D59	2	1
D07	2	2	D60	2	4
D08	2	7	D61	2	6
D10	2	4	D62A	2	2
D12	2	4	D62B	2	1
D14A	1	3	D63	2	2
D14B	1	1	D64A	3	1
D15	1	3	D64B	3	1
D16	1	2	D65A	3	1
D17	1	2	D65B	3	1
D18	1	2	D66	3	2
D19	1	3	D67	1	6
D20	1	2	D68	1	5
D21	1	1	D70	3	6
D22	1	1	D71A	3	2
D23	1	2	D71B	3	1
D24	1	2	D72	1	3
D25	1	2	D73A	3	1
D26	1	2	D73B	3	1
D27	1	1	D74	3	3
D28	1	1	D75	3	2
D29	1	1	D76	3	1
D30	1	1	D77	3	1
D31	1	1	D78	3	1
D32A	1	1	D79	3	1
D33	1	3	D80	3	1
D34	1	3	D81	3	1
D35	1	3	D82	3	1
D36	1	31	D83	3	1
D37	1	4	D84	4	1
D38	1	1	D85	4	1
D39	1	3	D86	4	3
D40	1	2	D87	4	1
D41A	1	4	D88	4	1
D41B	1	3	D89	4	1
D42	1	2	D90	4	1
D43	1	3	D91	4	1
D44	1	2	D92	4	1
D45A	1	1	D93	4	1
D45B	1	2	D94	4	1
D46	1	3	D95A	4	1
D47	1	2	D95B	4	1
D48	1	3	D96	4	2
D50	1	4	D97	4	1
D51	1	2	D98	4	1
D52	1	11			
D53	2	3			
D54A	2	5			

Probate Court

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
P01	3	1	P63	1	4
P03	2	1	P64	3	1
P04	4	1	P65	3	1
P05	4	1	P66	4	1
P06	3	1	P68	3	1
P07	4	1	P69	4	1
P08	2	1	P70	2	1
P09	3	1	P71	4	1
P10	4	1	P72	3	1
P11	2	2	P73	3	2
P12	2	1	P74	1	2
P13	2	2	P75	2	1
P14	2	1	P76	3	1
P16	4	1	P78	3	1
P17	4	1	P79	3	1
P19	3	1	P80	2	1
P20	4	1	P81	1	2
P21	4	1	P82	1	9
P22	4	1	P83	4	1
P23	2	1	PD17	3	1
P25	1	3	PD18	3	1
P27	4	1	PD5	4	1
P28	4	1	PD6	4	1
P29	3	1	PD7	4	1
P30	2	1			
P31	4	1			
P32	3	1			
P33	2	2			
P34	3	1			
P35	3	1			
P36	4	1			
P37	3	1			
P38	2	1			
P39	2	3			
P40	4	1			
P41	2	4			
P42	4	1			
P43	3	1			
P44	3	1			
P45	4	1			
P46	2	1			
P47	2	1			
P50	1	3			
P51	4	1			
P52	4	1			
P53	3	1			
P55	4	1			
P56	3	1			
P57	4	1			
P58	1	2			
P59	3	1			
P60	4	1			
P61	2	2			
P62	3	1			

Municipal Court

Court	Region	# of Judges
MGP	1	1
MGPF	1	1
MGPP	1	1
MGPW	1	1